

Injur'd Innocence :
OR THE
LIVES
AND
Surprizing Adventures
OF
AMICORUS
AND
AMICANA.

A True and Modern STORY
wrote by a FRIEND.

The SECOND EDITION.

*Kings fight for Kingdoms, Madmen for Applause,
But Love, and Love alone crowneth the Lover's Cause.*

DRYDEN

L O N D O N

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W. Musgrave.





THE P R E F A C E.



HEN Virtue and Innocence are falsely and basely aspers'd, tho' by the most infamous and profligate Wretch in the World; the Malicious and Envious, will, at least, pretend to believe the vile Calumny to be Truth. And will as industriously, as spightfully Report and Repeat it in all Conversation; either by fly Insinuations, or vehement Reproaches. And it's no wonder, that a Character so very Good, shou'd be envy'd by some, who like not to imitate Amicana's Virtue. But if she suffer'd in the Sentiments of some of the Vain, or Vicious, she was as

The P R E F A C E.

highly Applauded and Respected by the Wise and Virtuous.

AND this Narration is not written so much in Vindication of the Truth, or to rescue injured Innocence from malicious Aspersions, as to shew an excellent Patern, for the Young, and Inexperienc'd, to imitate.

A M I C A N A was too free from Vain-glory, to allow the Publication of her due Praise; and it's not in my Power to write a just Panegyrick on so much Excellence. But certainly her chaste pure Love, strict Virtue, and inviolable Friendship; her Fortitude and Patience; her generous Goodness, and inviolable Fidelity, are scarcely to be equal'd; nor can Amicorus's true Merit be well exceeded; I wish they may be well imitated.

THE Narrative is real Truth, and as near as cou'd be, is literally express'd. If it's wrote in too grave a Manner for the present Taste of the World, yet the particular Relations are very uncommon, and some of them very surprizing, and will make no disagreeable Amusement.

The P A E F A C E.

If some Things, by Way of Journal, are thought Frivulous, they could not well be omitted, as being necessary, either to shew the many Disappointments that usually attend the flattering Hopes of impatient Lovers, or as Incidents not unnecessary to distinguish real Innocence from seeming Guilt, and seeming Vice from real Virtue.

THE vile Part which Falacia acted, tho' rashly begun, and with utmost Hazard carried on, in Behalf of Audatio, yet, at last, she shew'd herself a cunning Polititian in flagrant Iniquity. And the Story of Volanto has something in it worth Observation.

As the whole is real Truth, it ought not to be wrote in a Romantick Stile. And as it's a good Moral, it's thought most suitably express'd in a plain Narration of Facts. And, I hope, we are not, never to be pleas'd with any Thing but gay Toys, airy Flights, and ludicrous Tales, but will sometimes admit of moral Entertainments, without a Mixture of fictitious

The P R E F A C E.

tious Art : Tho' what is instructive in it, is address'd to the Young and Gay ; as it contains some necessary Precautions to avoid Ruin, engaging Emulations to Virtue ; and Precepts and Presidents, which, if well observ'd, and prudently imitated, will promote and secure their Enjoyment of true Happiness of a Married State.

IT can't encourage Intriguing, but must needs diswade from it ; seeing the most cunning Designs, and most clandestine Attempts, are discover'd, and prove Abortive, to the Shame and Confusion of the Actors.

SOME Parts of the Narrative were taken from Amicorus and Amicana's, relating of Facts to their Friends ; and from His, and Her written Memorandums, and Original Letters ; and Letters of other Persons herein-mentioned. And the Writer was a Witness to some material Parts of the Story. He is a Stranger to the Press ; and as his Indisposition will not permit him to Correct or Amend the rough Draught from which it's Print-

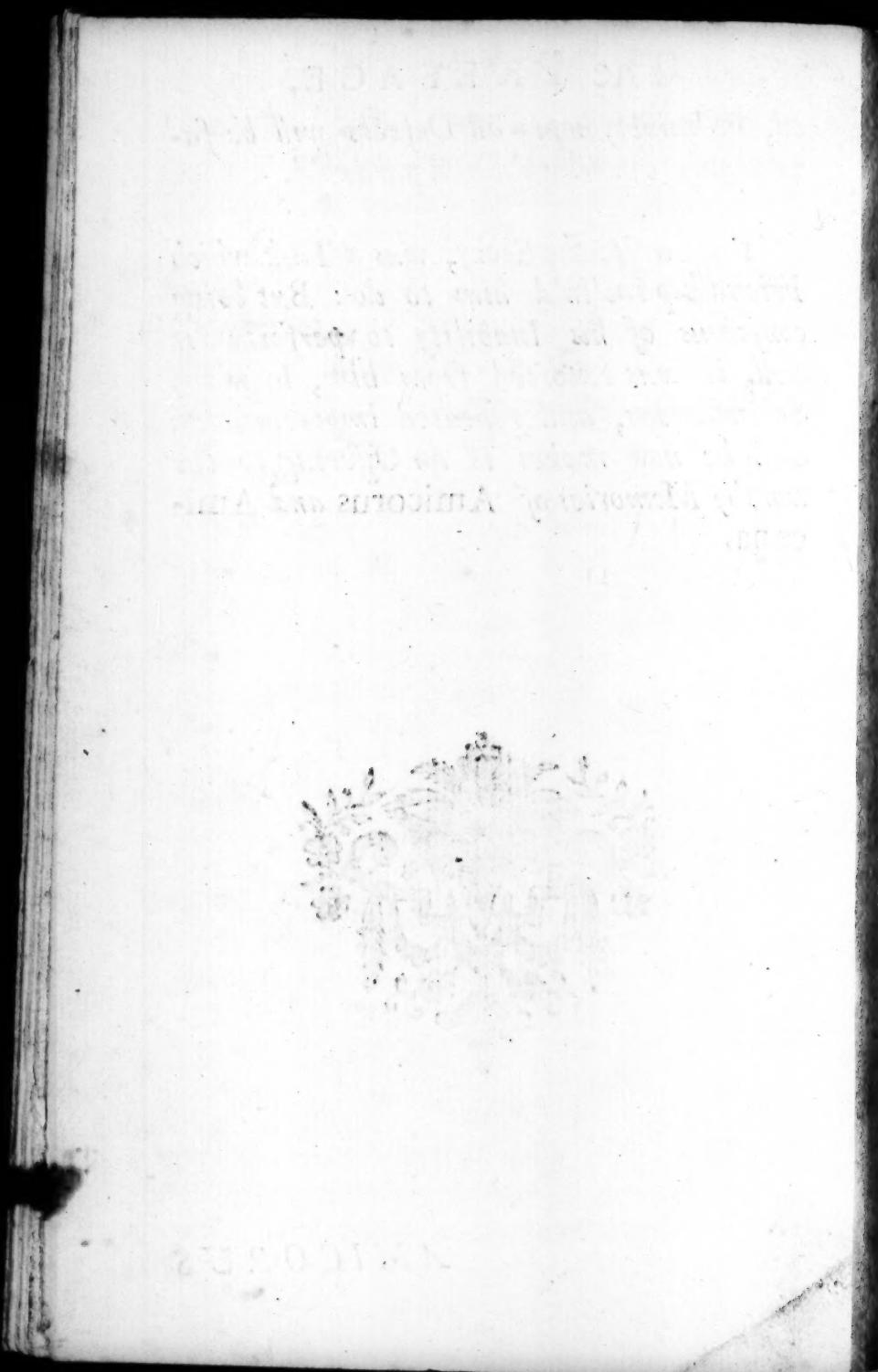
The P R E F A C E.

ed, he humbly hopes all Defects will be favourably over-look'd and pardon'd.

To write the Story, was a Task which Friendship inclin'd him to do: But being conscious of his Inability to perform it well, it was extorted from him, by many Solicitations, and repeated Importunities, and he now makes it an Offering to the worthy Memories of Amicorus and Americana.



AMICORUS





A M I C O R U S
A N D
A M I C A N A.

A
Micorus was about 20 Years of Age, when, by his Father's Death, a plentiful Estate descended to him. His Mother being Dead, the Estate was free from the Charge of a Joynture ; but Part of it not being entail'd, was incumber'd ; and a considerable Sum charg'd upon it, payable to his younger Brother and Two Sisters : Which induc'd *Amicorus* to resolve not to keep House, or Coach, 'till the Estate was clear, and he enabl'd to pay his Father's Bequests as they became due. And he resolv'd to live Single, rather than for the Sake of Fortune to marry ; except he could have Wealth with a

B W i s e,

Wife, whom he could entirely Love, and find true Delight in her Conversation. And, Young as he was, he prefer'd Virtue to Beauty, and Prudence and Temper to all other Things. Yet, perhaps, had *Amicana*'s Virtue been less Valuable, her Beauty might have ensnared him ; for he was not then become a Philosopher, tho' a Miracle of his Age for Wit, Politeness, and manly Consideration. And his virtuous Inclination was well supported by prudent Resolutions, and a watchful and careful Conduct. He had left the University, and was studying the Law at *Carentum*, the Metropolis of the Kingdom, not with Intent to practice, but to make it useful to himself in the Management of his Affairs, and to enable him the better to serve his Country. But on Account of his Father's Death, he left his Studies, for a while, the better to alleviate his Sorrows, by the agreeable Conversation of some Relations, who liv'd remote from *Carentum*, and from *Boniter*, his Mansion-House. But the Management of his Estate, and the Care of his Brother and Sisters, was left in skillful and faithful Hands. The pleasant Spring was begun when he took his Journey, intending, whilst in the Country, to pass his Time at his Aunt *Phelicia*'s, a Widow Lady, whose Children were about his Age, and their Conversation suitable to him. She liv'd near *Haumont*, a Large, Wealthy,

Wealthy, Polite Town, and Chief of a Province ; and where there is oft' a great Resort of Gentry. After he had made a short Stay with his Aunt, he thought himself oblig'd to ride about 50 Miles farther, to wait on *Benemer*, to whom he was nearly related. His Aunt was extreamly delighted with him, and very fond of him, and oblig'd him to promise a speedy Return. But *Benemer* wou'd by no Means part with him, 'till she sent a special Messenger for him.

Some Time after, *Benemer* sent his Coach with Three of his Daughters to *Haumont*, to stay some Time there, on Account of Education ; and the Coach was order'd not to return without *Amicorus* ; and there being some particular Reasons for his going, such as the seeing some extraordinary Diversions, and making Acquaintance with Gentlemen of Worth, his Aunt wou'd not obstrust it. So he went the next Morning to *Haumont*, to wait on the young Ladies, (sent his Horses to the Inn where the Coach was set up) and stay'd to dine with them ; intending after Dinner to go to *Marphet*, which is 16 Miles ; the Days were long, and the Roads good, and thence the Coach might reach Home the next Day. *Amicorus* had taken Leave of the Ladies, and was entering the Inn Gate, when it began to Rain in a violent Manner ; and seem'd like to continue, as it did do, 'till late at Night.

The Rain oblig'd him to stop at the first Door in the Court of the Inn ; and he having consider'd that it would prejudice the Coach and Horses to travel in such a fierce Rain, he call'd for his Servant to bid him unsaddle, and to have the Coachman unharnes, all being left to his Direction ; when, to his great Surprize, he saw a Gentleman of about 60 Years Old, in thin Spatedashes, which cou'd not keep out Rain ; and he, being very Lame, two Servants in Liveries were lifting him up the Horse-Block, the better to set him on his Horse. *Amicorus* saw a Pillion behind the Saddle, and perceived a very weakly indisposed Gentlewoman of about 50, standing behind him in the Door Passage, sighing ; and he heard her say to herself, That she should be drowned 'ere they got to *Marshet*. He saw she had no Ridinghood to shelter her from the violent Rain, (they being then out of Fashion) and out of Compassion to 'em both, he thus address'd himself to the Old Gentleman, who was not got quite up the Horse-Block ; ' Sir, I am very much concern'd to see you and this weakly Lady going to undertake a Journey of 16 long Miles in this terrible Rain, which is very likely to continne, and in an open Country that has no Shelter, or fit Place of Accommodation, if you shou'd be forc'd to stop by the Way, or can't possibly reach *Marshet*

shet to Night: And you must expect, at best, to ride a good Way in the Dark; for I perceive you can't make much Speed: I presume 'tis a Case of Necessity, or you wou'd not attempt it. I did intend to go to *Marshet* this Night, but I have alter'd my Resolution; and if your Affairs will permit your staying here 'till Morning, I have a Coach shall be at your Service; which, considering your Lameness, and this Lady's Tenderness, may be some Ease to you both.' He answer'd, 'Sir, I thank you for your Concern for us, and for your obliging Offer of your Coach; but I live at *Aldinam*, and have great Occasion to be at Home to Morrow; and I find my Fit of the Gout encrease, and wou'd by no Means be forc'd to lie Ill upon the Road.' *Amicorus* told him, his Road lay within 10 Miles of *Aldinam*, and he might have the Coach so far if he pleas'd; but he wou'd not be prevail'd on to stay all Night. At last, out of pure Compassion, *Amicorus* said the Horses shou'd be put to the Coach immediately. *Parsimont*, i. e. the Old Gentleman, said he was extreamly obliged to him; but there was besides his Wife, Two Gentlewomen within the Room, who were to go with them, and there would not be room for 'em all in the Coach and *Amicorus* too; and that if he, being Lame, and in Pain, shou'd be crowded, it would

6 *Amicorus and Amicana.*

do him more Hurt than the Rain would do.

Amicorus very readily and frankly answer'd, 'Sir, there is Room for Four to sit with Ease ; and, for my own Part, though I had resolv'd to stay 'till to Morrow, yet, as I have good Horses, a good riding weather Hat, Cloak, and strong Boots, I can't be prejudic'd by the Rain, and will do myself the Honour to wait on the Ladies and you to *Marshet* to Night ; and I beg your Acceptance of the Coach.' *Parsimont*, after abundance of ceremonious Refusal, was, at last, prevail'd on, by his Lady, to accept of it. And being help'd down from the Steps of the Horse-Block, each made his Compliments, and *Parsimont* desired *Amicorus* would please to walk into their Room, which he did in a very unconcern'd Manner, as not knowing what a magnetical, or magical Object he should there behold. But on the first View of the Inchanting *Amicana*, he was not only far more, and incomparably more agreeably surpriz'd than before, at the first Sight of *Parsimont*'s rash Attempt, to ride in the dismal Rain : For he was now at once charm'd, transported, and entirely captivated by that beautiful young Lady *Amicana*, who was about 20 Years of Age, and by far the greatest Beauty that ever his Eyes had beheld ; and he was surpriz'd in a contrary Manner too, by seeing with her, *Ursula*, the very Reverse of the Amiable

Amicana ;

Amicana; and a Monster for Ugliness, of about 40; who seem'd as a designed Foil to set off *Amicana's* Beauty. Their Horses were not brought out, as intending not to get on Horseback, 'till *Parsimont* and his Lady were got off the Pavement, and then to over-take 'em; and *Parsimont* would not suffer them to attend his Wife at the Door, that *Amicana* might not be seen; so that *Amicorus* could have no pre-apprehension of so charming a Sight as *Amicana*.

WHEN She first cast her bright Eyes upon him, he seem'd as if a Flash of Lightning had darted into his Heart, which caused a violent Agitation in his whole Frame; and he imagin'd that he at the same Instant perceiv'd a sudden Change in *Amicana's* Countenance: And indeed Love had at once enter'd and pierc'd both their Breasts with a pleasing Pain, which, 'till that Moment, neither of them had ever felt.

PARSIMONT, in Complaisance, presented him to *Petula*, his Spouse, and to *Amicana*, as his Niece, and to *Ursula*, as a Friend. When he went to salute *Amicana* she trembel'd, and long afterwards, at a proper Time, own'd she felt a violent Emotion in her Breast, which, 'till then, she was an utter Stranger to; and which she found very difficult to contain without fainting. *Amicorus* could not content himself with the usual and respectful Salute of the

Cheek, but eagerly press'd her ruby Lips, which gave him such a rapturous Delight, as, 'till then, he had no Idea of. And *Amicana* did not seem in the least offended at the Liberty he took in his Salute. They were no sooner seated, but *Parsimont* call'd for Help to lead him out, which *Amicorus* thought must needs be on some very necessary Occasion ; but was told by the Master of the Inn, (when he was about getting on Horseback, after the Coach was gone out of the Court) that it was to make a very particular Enquiry of him, and his Character.

WHILEST *Parsimont* was gone out, *Petula* shew'd herself very sensible of *Amicorus*'s good Offices ; and told *Amicana* and *Ursula*, how much they ought to think themselves oblig'd to him for his Civilities. *Amicorus* made his return of Compliment, and said he was very glad to find his Offer of the Coach, would be of so much more Service than he at first imagined, by sheltering *Amicana* and *Ursula* from the Injury of the Weather ; and by his Discourse made himself very agreeable to them all.

AND though Love had got entire Possession of his Soul, he prudently avoided making any plain Discovery of his Passion ; but sitting opposite to *Amicana*, he watch'd some Opportunities to let his Eyes speak the Wishes and Desire of his Heart. Half

an

an Hour was very agreeably past, whilst their travelling Posture was changing, and their Side-saddles, &c. were securing from being wet.

AMICORVS had the Honour to hand the Ladies into the Coach, when the Touch of *Amicana's* Hand gave him another inexpressible Transport of Joy ; but yet the Pleasure he felt was mix'd with Pain. He found his Heart entirely lost ; and not growing Vain with his Imagination of *Amicana's* favourable Aspect, he could not rashly hope, though he would not despair. His Fate, he thought, was absolutely in *Amicana's* Power ; and that she only could pronounce him Happy, or Miserable.

THE violent Rain continuing all the Way, prevented his having much Conversation with the Ladies in the Coach ; but being impatient to learn all he could of *Amicana*, &c. he enquir'd of the Servants, and bid *Featy*, his Servant, to get what Intelligence he could of them. They gave *Amicana* an excellent Character, but were on the Reserve in some Particulars, as he afterwards found : But one of them was free enough in speaking of *Parfimont* ; and said, he had a plentiful Estate, and kept a Coach but was a very wary Gentleman, and would not let it go so long a Journey as they had been ; (which was to *Santon Wells*) and *Amicorus* soon found he was of an avaricious,

ous, morose, positive, conceited, ceremonious Temper ; and perceived that covetousness was his strongest Motive to make haste Home ; and that his ceremonious Refusal of the Coach was to save giving a Crown, &c. to the Coach-Man ; tho' as his gouty Humour was increasing, had he not had the Use of *Benemer's* Coach, he must, in all probability, have been oblig'd to send for his own, and stay on the Road at a considerable Charge to wait its arrival ; for had he rode to *Marschet* that dismal Night, he must have suffer'd too much, and have been unable to ride any farther.

A
WHEN they arriv'd at *Marschet, Vagavio*, a rakish young Gentleman, and a Debauchee, who *Amicorus* had sometimes seen at *Haumont*, was in the Inn Door where they were to lodge, but he lodg'd at another Inn : He seeing *Amicorus* hand the Ladies out of the Coach, was very inquisitive to know who *Amicana* was ; and had Assurance enough to have follow'd her into the dining Room had not *Amicorus* prevented it : However, he told *Amicorus* he would sup with them, imagining his small Acquaintance with *Amicorus* sufficient to warrant so rude an Attempt : *Amicorus* told him he would not sure offer to sup with them without their Leave ; and that the Gentleman and his Lady's Indisposition and Fatigue made it improper, even if he were known to

to them. *Vagavio* seem'd not to relish *Amicorus's* Reproof and went to his Inn.

He was one that would make Acquaintance with every Body that he saw, and talk as familiarly with them at first Sight as if he had been acquainted with them seven Years ; but, no doubt, but his Curiosity to see *Amicana* might chiefly move him to that rude Attempt ; for he had only seen her fine Shape, but not her beauteous Face, she being masqu'd on purpose to avoid being seen.

AMICORUS intended as soon as it might be allowable to ask Leave to wait on them, to know how they did after their Journey ; but was prevented by a Message from *Parfimont* to know how he did, and to desire his Company ; he went immediately to the dining Room where they were, and after the usual Compliments, *Parfimont* said, he hop'd *Amicorus* would do them the Favour to sup with them ; he answer'd, that if it would not be inconvenient, on Account of his and his Lady's Indisposition and Fatigue, he would do himself that Honour.

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took the Liberty to come to ask them how they did, and said that he having been at *Marshot* some Days, was at Ease, and would take care they should be well accommodated, which was a very impertinent Offer of Service.

PARSIMONT perceiv'd that *Amicorus* did not seem well pleas'd with *Vagavio*, and said to him, without thanking him for his Offer of Service, 'Sir, there is no need 'for you to give your self any Trouble on 'our Account, for the necessary Cares is ta- 'ken for what we want.' *Vagavio* was one who would not easily be put out of Countenance, or prevented doing what e'er he fancy'd to do, and said he imagin'd *Amicorus* was to sup with them; and being his Acquaintance desired he might be admitted to sup with them; at which they were more surpriz'd than before. *Amicorus* was ver-ry angry with him, and they might see he was ashamed of *Vagavio*'s Manners; but he not being the Person spoke to, was to leave it to *Parsimont* to answer; and being unwilling to quarrel in their Company, he waited to hear what Answer *Parsimont* would make, who believing *Vagavio* to be more acquainted with *Amicorus* than he was, neither objected to it, nor bid him Welcome; but said, we are not very fit to entertain Strangers, but I perceive, Sir, you will sup with us. . *Vagavio* was so rediculous as to say he did not desire

desire it at their Cost, but it was in an Inn, and he would pay his Club, which he hop'd would give no Offence, to which no reply was made.

VAG AVIO was handsome and thought all Women in Love with him, and that he might take Liberty to treat them as he pleas'd, and grew very impertinent in his Talk, and made Love to *Amicana* with a great deal of romantiick and common place Ribaldry ; and would have treated her with such sort of Freedom as if he had been talking to a Chamber-Maid, and was for hugging and kissing her ; but she shew'd him that she would not suffer that, or any other Rudeness. He had a very odd and ill express'd Manner of commanding her Beauty and Wit ; and made a Sort of a medly Comedy of all his Discourse, which , for novelty and variety Sake, and for once, every one began to think diverting, only *Amicana* was resolv'd to take an Opportunity to shew him some sort of Resentment for affronting her.

SUPPER was brought in, and *Vagavio* took upon him to act as Master of the Feast, and as if they had been his invited Guests ; and when *Amicana* civilly refus'd a Plate which he had carv'd for her, by thanking him for his Officiousness, but desiring Leave to help herself where she lik'd best. He was so audacious as to tell her, it was not

Manners to refuse his Compliment. He offer'd the Plate to every one, and was refus'd by all.

HOWEVER, he would needs give *Amicana* a Plate of a second Dish, which she still refus'd, though not ignorant of the Rules of Civility, but to shew her Resentment for his Rudeness ; saying, she did not like that Part, and desir'd to be excus'd. This did not prevent his offering a Plate of a third Dish, which she refus'd with some shew of Displeasure ; at which he grew so Insolent, as to tell her she was proud and did not know herself, nor understand common Rules of Civility. She reply'd, 'twas very hard to be oblig'd to eat what one did not like, because another would force it upon 'em. He would then needs know what she did like best ; but he had not been respectful enough to deserve that Favour. And there being nothing that needed Carving, she said she would give him no needless Trouble ; and took of Tarts and Fruit, &c. what she thought fit, and said, now she had her Supper.

AMICORUS had privately check'd his Folly, and then thought it better to make a Droll of his Behaviour than to disturb the Company with reproving him, least it should occasion more Disturbance. *Vagatio* perceiv'd *Amicorus*'s Meaning, but could not help being affronting to *Amicana*, though

though he pretended to admire, and be in Love with her above all Things ; such was his Way of making Court to her, and of which she made herself Sport. But Supper had not been long over, 'ere *Parsimont* fell in a Passion with *Vagavio* ; and *Petula* grew very peevish with him ; and indeed, shew'd that her Name and Nature agreed.

Amicorus told *Vagavio*, that *Parsimont's* and *Petula's* Indisposition made it Time for them to withdraw ; and *Vagavio* in a Huff call'd for the Reckoning, and would pay more than his Share. *Amicorus* flung down as much as *Vagavio* had done ; which either *Parsimont's* Passion, or Avarice, would not let him take Notice of.

WHEN they withdrew, *Amicorus* shew'd *Vagavio* his Resentment with a great deal of warmth ; and told him he had forgot that he was a Gentleman ; that he had never been desirous of his Conversation, and for the future would take care to avoid it, and bid him for shame go and learn better Manners : *Vagavio* said it was all but Raillery, and went away Laughing. A very indolent Manner of taking such a Rebuke.

URSULA was desir'd to go to ask *Amicorus* to come back and sit a little longer with them, now that they might be inquiet, and she was also to give some necessary Orders to the Servants : *Amicorus* went back as desir'd, and as he had intended to do, and

when *Ursula* returned she seem'd frighted, and said the Servants had told her that by what they had over-heard between *Amicorus* and *Vagavio*, they expected nothing less than Duelling ; and that if *Vagavio* had the Spirit of a Man, he could not have gone off without it ; and this set them all in a Fright for *Amicorus*, tho' the Danger was over : They could not blame *Amicorus* for *Vagavio*'s coming into their Room ; but however, he thought it proper to tell them how small his Knowledge of *Vagavio* was, more than that he was a Gentleman of a good Family, and that if he had imagin'd he wou'd have return'd from his Inn after what he had said to him, he would have taken effectual care to have prevented his coming into their Company.

AMICORUS wish'd *Parsimont* and *Petula* would have gone to Bed, that he might have had some Oportunity to speak to *Amicana* alone ; but *Parsimont* had something to be done to his Foot by the Fire, which on Account of the Rain (tho' Summer) they had in the dining Room ; so was forc'd to bid good-night to them all together. When he was in his Room he bid his Servant bring him Pen, Ink and Paper, and go to Bed ; and despairing of an Opportunity to speak to *Amicana* alone, he intended to beg of her to read the devoted Thoughts of a passionate Lover's Heart.

Whilst

Whilst he was writing, he heard her and *Ursula*, both speak, and tho' it is seldome allowable to hearken, yet hearing his Name mention'd, and having no ill Purpose, he did not forbear lissening ; and looking towards the Side of the Room where the Voice came from, he saw a Light, and setting his Candle out of Sight, he went softly towards the Voices, and found that somebody had designedly cut a Slit in the Hangings of both Rooms ; and there being only a lath Partition between, such Way had been made that he could see them very plainly, and distinctly hear every Word they spoke, and found they were talking of what had pass'd in that Days Expedition, and commanding him. Lord, said *Amicana*, what a vast Difference there is in Mankind, here is two young Gentlemen, the one the very reverse of the other ; then said *Ursula*, one is a Saint, the other a Devil : *Amicorus* has, said *Amicana*, with perfect good Manners, shewn a Nature truly good and generous ; and his modest, respectful, entertaining Behaviour is extreamly pleasing and obliging : The other, under a Pretence to Manners, has acted all that is contrary to it, all that is vain and vile, impudent and impertinent ; and discovers an evil Nature, far from human.

S A Y S *Ursula*, sure *Amicorus* is the best of his Sex, and *Vagatio* the worst. *Amicana*

continu'd ; I can never sufficiently commend *Amicorus's* Behaviour, or fully value his generous Actions ; had he seen me before he offer'd my Uncle the Coach, I might have taken that Offer for a Piece of Gallantry, but by what the Innkeeper told my Uncle of *Amicorus's* dining in a remote Part of the Town, and that he was but that Moment come into the Inn ; and as we had not been two Hours in *Haumont*, and that my Masque was never off, but in that old dark, high window'd Room ; it is impossible he could know any Thing of me, and therefore his offering my Uncle the Coach, and putting himself upon the Hardship of riding in the terrible Rain, was such an A&t of pure Humanity and Compassion, as is very rarely found in young People towards the Aged and Infirm. He well deserves our Esteem, said *Ursula* ; and said *Amicana*, I owe him abundance of Thanks, and shall never forget the Benefit I have found by his Favours to us all. Said *Ursula*, we owe him our very Lives, for the Rain would have kill'd us all, had we not had the Coach. Said *Amicana*, the Hazard he run in correcting *Vagavio* for his Rudeness, makes him still more Worthy of our Esteem, tho' had I imagin'd any such Thing, I would have had it prevented. *Amicorus* had been obliging to *Ursula*, and if *Amicana* was so pleas'd with his Behaviour and Conversati-
on,

on, she could not be less pleas'd with his Person.

A M I C O R U S was all Rapture and Delight to find himself so much in the Esteem of the adorable *Amicana*; his Thoughts were wholly engag'd on the beauteous Object of his Passion, and on her bright Genius and excellent Accomplishments; and her generous Sence of his Service was very pleasing to him. His busy Thoughts permitted him to sleep but little, and tho' not without some Pain, he was better pleas'd to lie awake: They got up early the next Morning, and were preparing to set forwards, when the Coachman came to tell them, that when the Coach gave a Jolt, coming into Town, the Wheel hit upon a rocky Stone, and something crack'd, but not having above a hundred Yards to the Inn it came on so well that he did not apprehend any Danger, but what a Smith could soon make secure, but now found the Axel-tree was broke past mending; that the only Man that could make a new one, was gone out of Town to work, but he had sent for him, and hop'd to have it done so as to go to *Aldinam* that Night, which was Fifteen long Miles.

P A R S I M O N T grew so peevish upon this Stop that was put to their Journey, that he was for leaving the Coach, and riding on Horseback, tho' he found his gouty

ty Foot grow more painful and sore ; but *Petula* said, she was so very Ill that it was impossible for her to ride. He said, staying would oblige them either to travel, or lie on the Road on *Sunday*, neither of which he was willing to do, but Covetousness more than Religion fram'd that Pretence, and they all took *Petula's* Part, and oblig'd him to stay.

AMICORUS was now in hopes of an Opportunity to speak the Emotions of his Soul to *Amicana* alone, but in vain ; for tho' the Sun shone bright, the Ground was too wet after the Rain to walk in the Morning ; and after Dinner it began to rain as hard as it did the Day before. The Wheel-Right was so long 'ere he came back, and so slow at his Work, that they must have travell'd a good deal in the Dark, and in rocky ill Road to have reach'd *Aldinam* that Night, and the Coach-Horses being Young had got cold by the excessive Rain the Day before ; so that the Coachman durst not venture them again in such a Rain as was then begun, and like to hold : And *Petula's* Illness continuing, they were oblig'd to stay at *Marshet* all Night, and alas ! Without any Opportunity for *Amicorus's* being alone with *Amicana* : But they had a good deal of agreeable Conversation, which made them more acquainted, but *Parsimon*'s and *Petula's* Indisposition made Mirth inconsistent. *Parsimon's*
Pain

Pain did not make him leave the Dining-Room all Day to lie on the Bed, which *Amicorus* thought was design'd to watch *Amicana*.

AMICORUS perceiving *Parsimont's* sordid Nature, did not think it proper to discover to him his Passion for *Amicana*, but his Eyes, when undiscover'd by others, shew'd her the Sentiments of his Soul, and the Pangs of his Heart, labouring with Restraint; which she could not but perceive, and did not seem offend'd at it; but as he willingly imagin'd, rather return some favourable Glances. And she seem'd well pleas'd with all his Conversation and Behaviour: And as he thought it necessary to gain *Ursula's* Friendship, he was not wanting to be very obliging to her, nor did it loose its Effect, as appear'd upon Occasion some Time after; tho' she prov'd very base at the last: And so much was she now pleased with him, that when they retir'd to their respective Rooms, as he could not forbear peeping into *Amicana's* Chamber, and listening to their Discourse, he found that *Ursula* seem'd to strive to out-do *Amicana* in commending him; which gave him such Encouragement, that he would have ventur'd into their Room, had it been practicable; but he could not do that without passing thro' *Parsimont's* Room; for tho' *Amicorus's* Chamber and *Amicana's* joyn'd, the Doors

Doors were oposite, her Way turning thro' *Parsimont's* from the further End of the Dining-Room, and his Door at the Stair-Cafe-Head leading into the Dining-Room : His Chamber being Dark and hers Light, and the Slit in his Hangings close on his Side, except whilst held open, and those on her Side being cut larger, and, press'd back by some designing Contriver, gave a large Prospect into her Room, and he could see into it undiscover'd, as well in the Morning as at Night ; could see her undress and dress, and he might have seen her go to bed, and rise from it, and lie in Bed too, which must needs increase Desire, but not guilty Lust in a virtuous Mind ; but gave him the Satisfaction of knowing that her Beauty was natural, and that she us'd no Paint, or artificial Wash ; but his present unsuccessful Wishes gave him as much Anxiety as the pleasing Prospect gave him Delight. He pass'd the second Night with as little Sleep as the first, and with the same intermixture of Pleasure and Pain.

T H E Morning being very fine, *Amicana* would willingly have rode on Horseback, but *Parsimont* would not suffer it, he would have had *Ursula* ride to give more Room for him to ease himself, telling her she took up twice as much Room as *Amicana* did, but she complain'd that she was much chaff'd with riding, and that she could not keep

keep pace with the Coach ; so both went in the Coach, which depriv'd *Amicorus* of the wish'd for Opportunity of revealing his secret but violent Flame to *Amicana* ; but as oft as the Road admitted it, he talked with them all the Way, and found *Amicana* well pleased with it.

THO' the Morning was pleasant, the Day grew hot, and when Dinner was over at *Aldinam*, *Parsimont* took *Petula* into a Bed-Chamber to repose themselves for an Hour ; and *Ursula*, being unwieldy and sore with riding, took that Opportunity to eafe herself, and went to lie on another Bed, leaving *Amicorus* and *Amicana* together ; and thus the wish'd for Minute was come. *Amicana* began the Discourse, by saying, how much she was ashame'd that her Uncle had let him pay any Thing, especially more than his Share, and mentioned the great Obligations received : As a Reason for it. *Amicorus* answer'd, ' The Obligation was but a Duty which human Nature owes to all of our own Species ; and, indeed, to relieve and eafe any Creature when in Danger, Want, or Pain ; that they were Fellow-Travellers, and he did not think he paid more than his Share, except when *Vagavio* occasioned it.

THAT Wretch, said she, is not worth thinking of, only it gives me Occasion to reflect upon the Hazard you run in correcting

ing him for his rude Behaviour ; for which, I am in particular oblig'd, and I give you a great many Thanks ; but it was what I could not have desired, and would have rather endeavour'd to prevent, had I been apprehensive of your putting your self in any Danger ; and should have been extreamly concerned had you suffer'd by it. *Vagavio's* Conduct, said she, was so unaccountable, that I know not what Sence to put upon it. Madam, said *Amicorus*, you have just Occasion, it's true, for reprehending him, tho' there may be some Reason why he ought to be pittyed. Love makes some Persons delirious; and if it makes some over Modest, it gives others too great Boldness : And it would be impossible to see so captivating an Object, without being pierc'd to the Soul, and falling into some Extream. Sir, said she, though I am told I am not so very disagreeable, as to be lik'd by none of your Sex ; yet I am far from suspecting that *Vagavio* was touch'd with any Thing he saw in me : Nor do I think him capable of a real Esteem for any of our Sex ; but he would take upon him to be Gallant, and has the most awkward Manner in the World of shewing his Skill that Way. Madam, said *Amicorus*, you are a Lady of that delicate Tast and strict Observation, that it would be in vain to pretend to excuse *Vagavio's* Manner of Courtship, and indeed your bright Genius

nious and quick Penetration, strikes such an Awe on me, that I know not how to venture, to discover the Sentiments of my own Heart; but certainly, Madam, no Man living can see you and not adore you; it was impossible for me to do otherwise, and the first Moment my Eyes beheld you, my Heart flew from my Breast as swift as Lightning, or if it had been torn from thence with extream Violence; and I must humbly beg you'll pardon me, for saying what I can't conceal. Sir, said she, I assure you I am not pleas'd with Flattery, and you seem to have too much good Sence to loose your Heart upon a first Sight; and you have not known enough of me, to resolve whether I am worth your Thoughts. Beauty alone can never make any Happy; 'tis a fading Flower, oft nipt in the Bloom, and lost in an instant; or, if long preserved from Decay, yet, without good Sence, Temper and Conduct, it will soon become insipid, and may make a Man uneasy and unhappy; and Beauty, without strict Virtue and Prudence, often proves a Snare to a Woman, and becoms her Ruin. And now (with a sudden Change of Aspect, which shew'd an unavoidable Concern, she added; and it may be a Curse to her too, and without her own Fault. Madam, said *Amicorus*, your Observations are very just in all Points, but as to the first, tho' you

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judge right in the General, give me leave to say, that very wise Men have been in Love at first Sight ; and I believe it impossible for Men sometimes not to avoid it, much less for any of my Age : Indeed, such sudden Passions often prove but very short liv'd, when the Beauties of the Mind are found wanting. But if *Amicana*'s personal Beauties were less powerful, I have seen so much of the Perfections of her Soul, which will ever improve and increase, that were I the greatest Prince upon Earth, I should esteem her as the greatest Honour and Blessing that I could enjoy in this World. Sir, said she, your disinterested, undesigning, but truly generous Behaviour has been such, since first I saw you, and the Opportunity you have had to shew it, in a very extraordinary Manner, on an Occasion wholly accidental, is enough to make a Woman, who is already Miserable, the more Unhappy for your Sake. *Amicorus* desirous to have her explain her self, said, ' Madam, I know ' not how to solve your Paradox ; your ' Complaint gives me inexpressible Pain ; I ' wish your Happiness more than my ' own, and I hope I shall never make ' any of your Sex unhappy ; nor will I ever ' make any so, except I become so unfor- ' tunate my self, as not to be able to avoid ' it. This I hope and believe you don't distrust,

distrust, Madam; yet I am in Pain to understand you right. ‘Sir, says *Amicana*, ‘I believe, indeed, you would never make any Woman unhappy if she were yours; ‘but her not being so may be her great Misfortune: A Woman may have a just Value for a Gentleman’s Merit, when she must never enjoy the Blessing of it. I, for my part, am so unhappy as to be depriv’d of the Liberty to follow my own Sentiments, but am wretchedly confin’d!

—Here Grief put a stop to her Words, and she seem’d to be falling into a Swoon, but a violent Flux of Tears help’d to prevent it; however, she remain’d for some time in a very great Disorder and Confusion, unable to continue her Speech, and, seemingly, not able to observe what he said, or did.

AMICORUS imagining her Confinement was only to her Uncles and Aunts over scrupulous, watching and restraining her; and to their peevish, and his avaricious Temper; and that her Fortune was at their Disposal, took the Liberty to clasp her in his longing Arms, and to kiss her beauteous weeping Eyes, and lovely blushing Cheeks, which she did not seem in the least displeas’d with, but was, indeed, rather insensible of it. She continu’d weak and faint for some Time, and permitted him to support her with his Arm, and she reclin’d

her Head to his Breast : As soon as she was a little recover'd, she started and sate up, and seem'd surpriz'd at what had happen'd. *Amicorus* beg'd he might go for a Cordial, but she would not suffer him to go for it. As soon as she began to lift up her lovely Eyes, and to look at him, he, with Looks full of anxious Concern, Love and Desire, sigh'd, and cry'd, Ah ! dear Charmer of my Soul ! let me be the happy Man that shall free you from the Confinement you complain of. Alas ! Sir, said she, that is impossible ; you are doubtless a Gentleman of true Honour and strict Virtue ; all your Actions shew you must be so ; and the uncommon Character, which the Inn-keeper at *Haumont* gave my Uncle of you, confirms it, and shews you are fully qualify'd to be a real and faithful Friend, and therefore more to be esteem'd, trusted and depended on, than the nearest Relation : And as it will give some ease to my Grief to tell you my Misfortune, the Confidence I have in your Virtue, Fidelity and Secrecy, induces me to discover, what I have, 'till now, kept secret, and shall, to all the World besides your self, ever keep in my own suffering Breast ; and I beg your Patience to hear my meloncholy Story. My profuse Father spent a considerable Estate, and dy'd when I was turn'd of Fourteen ; and tho' I
was

was his only Child, left me but a small Fortune ; and my Mother, being Dead, I was left to the Care and Disposal of my covetous and morose Uncle, who was my Mother's Brother , and of my ambitious peevish Aunt, who valuing themselves as well as me, upon Family Account ; my Father being descended from, and nearly related to a noble Family, who are all Young, and have an impaired Estate, and cou'd shew no Favour to me, my Uncle and Aunt forc'd me by all the Hardships and Severities imaginable , when I was but Sixteen, to marry *Senex Tygaris*, a Widower, of above four times my then Age ; one whom I could not love, and have but too much Cause to hate ; yet do I in all Things comply with my Duty, and nothing shall ever make me violate my Faith. His Estate is great enough, but he is very Penurious and Morose, and very distrustful ; and because I was Young, and thought Handsome, it was a sufficient Cause for Jealousy. But to prevent his being Jealous, I confine my self like a Nun ; and when he admits of Company, which is but seldom, I deny my self the Liberty in Conversation, which is even necessary to shew a due Respect to Gentlemen, and a due Regard to what they say to me. I take such Care of all my Looks, Words and Actions, that altho' he is so Distrustful, he never cen-

sur'd my Conduct, or accus'd me of Imprudence; but he will be jealous, without offering any the least Reason for it. I have, indeed, had a strict Regard to his Honour, and my own Virtue and Reputation, and will ever continue so to do; and I have given him some real Proofs, that I have withstood, and can withstand, the greatest Temptations.

My Uncle, as soon as he perceiv'd I would comply to marry *Senex Tygaris*, had our Marriage consummated in such haste, as not to stay for a Marriage-Settlement for me; he, perhaps, did so for fear I should recede, or lest *Senex's* Mind should change upon making Terms; and my Uncle might vainly fancy he wou'd be so charm'd, as to do wonderous generous Afts after Marriage. But now, tho' I have done all that's possible to please him, and never give him any the least Cause to be displeas'd with me; and tho' my Uncle makes himself a Slave to his Humours, yet he shews no Inclination to make me any way secure of a Maintenance after his Death. He has made a Will, but will not let us know what he has done for me; and his keeping it so secret, does not give me any Hopes of what might be reasonably expected, and he may leave me in a starving Condition; for his Love of his only Son *Junion* had induc'd him, upon marrying him to a Fortune, to settle

settle an unintail'd Estate, so as to make himself but Tenant for Life to the whole, which debars my Claim of Thirds of any of his Real Estate ; and tho' his Personal Estate is considerable, and every Day increasing, yet I have no Hopes from thence ; for such is his inconstant captious Temper, that he soon hated his own beloved Son, tho' without any Provocation ; and as his Son had no Child, nor he himself any other Child, that Reflection seem'd to incline him to marry again, in hopes of having more Children, and I having none as yet, makes him take no Care of me. But God's Will be done, I have been inur'd to Hardship, and am prepar'd for the worst Event, and will never use any indirect, or disallowable Means to extricate my self from my present Sufferings. My Uncle's and Aunt's ill Humours, and needless Severity, and their needless strict Confinement of me, whilst under their Care, made me almost weary of my Life ; and the frightful Threats they used in case of my Refusal to marry *Senex*, forc'd my Compliance to the disagreeable and unfortunate Match. Indeed I thought no State of Life could be worse than what I endur'd at my Uncle's, nor could my superior Relations, being Young, take care of me, and so I comply'd.

BUT if *Senex* is not very agreeable to me, I seem now to be so to him, or, at least, to be very indifferent to him : If he once thought I had any Beauty, it is grown familiar to him, and if I have any share of Wit, yet Wit, Mirth, and young Company are now his Aversion, and yet he is not willing to have me out of his Sight. But, alas ! his Peevishness will not let him seem pleas'd with any Thing that I do, tho' Prudence induces me to use my best Endeavours to please him. He is, however, something less suspicious now, than when I was first Married, and was four Years younger. But Jealousy seems to be his natural Temper, for he was always jealous of his former Wife, and, as I am inform'd, as much without a Cause as he is with me.

MY Aunt being indispos'd, and advis'd by her Physicians to use *Santon Waters*, *Senex*, out of an odd Caprice, desir'd my Aunt to take me along with her ; and *Ursula*, who is a Gentlewoman, but without Beauty or Fortune, and has been long in *Senex*'s Family, and appointed my Governess, was order'd to attend me to the Wells, and I have never given her any Reason to be a Spy ; but she would not have left me alone with you, but as she thinks you the best of your Sex ; and being sore with riding, can't sit at ease, and so went to lie down. The Reason why *Senex* would have

Amicana

Amicana go with her Aunt to the Wells, as she, after her Marriage with *Amicorus*, told him was, that those Waters were thought Prolifick; and, as he had one Child by his first Lady, he thought it was *Amicana's* Fault that he had none by her, but his old Age was the only Impediment.

T H E Roads are in many Places Rocky, and cross the Country; for which Reason, said *Amicana*, (continuing her Story) neither *Senex*, nor my Uncle, would let their Coaches go the Journey; and we are out of the Way of Stage Coaches; so have no other Woman Servant with us, and *Ursula* is but little helpful, nor do we expect it; you see we treat her as a Friend; and, I think, you have some way inspir'd her to be more Friendly than ever, at least she seems so, whether sincere, or not: But depending on my own Innocence, I have been free in commending you, and in acknowledging our great Obligations for your Civilities; but she was not less free in praising you, and I was willing to try her Sincerity. The Reason why you have not been told that I was Married, is because of our Manner of Travelling, and that my Uncle would not have it known on the Road who he is, nor what his Estate is, or who I am, otherwise than his Niece; and so charg'd the Servants not to say any thing more of me. You must needs observe that the Men have

two different Liveries, one being my Uncle's Servant ; the other mine, which you cou'd not discern by my Conduct, whatever you might imagine : *Amicorus* indeed, knew not what to think of the Different Livery of the Men Servants, or of *Ursula*, but by their Behaviour ; but by what he perceiv'd in *Amicana's* Room at *Marshet*, he thought *Ursula* was a Relation, or some way a Dependant on *Parsimont*, for *Amicana* did command her as a Mistress. *Amicana* only added to what she had said, that she was going Home, but first to her Uncles, which was considerably out of her Way, but he had promis'd, after a little Rest, to go with her Home ; and there, said she, he must leave me in a wretched State of Life. But I am arm'd with Patience, and will religioufly submit to God's Providence. I have now, said she, disbursed all my Grief to you, assuring my self you will never discover my Misfortunes to any Person living ; and, I assure you, you are the only Person in the World to whom I have ever told my Complaint. I don't let the World know how unhappy I am, nor give People room to think me so ; I say nothing of it but to my Aunt, nor but very little of it to her neither ; and if *Senex* did not in part shew it to the World by his Behaviour, what I suffer would never be known. But had not Love (tho' it was
virtuous

virtuous Love) touch'd *Amicana's* Soul to the Quick, she had not discover'd so much to *Amicorus*. Her Prudence, alas! was a little unguarded, but not her Virtue, as the many Attacks testify. *Amicorus* endeavour'd, as much as possible, to stifle his own Grief, for the Disappointment of his New-born Passion, by knowing she was Married, that his Sorrow might not appear to any Body but to her, to whom he shew'd how inconsolable he was both on that Account, and by his deep Concern for her Misfortune. He told her he should ever bear an equal Share in her unhappy Fate, 'till he knew it was revers'd; and should never have any Enjoyment of Life, 'till he knew that a Period was put to her disconsolate State: He would have added something more in express Terms, to shew his inviolable Attachment to her, but was prevented by *Parfmont's* waking, and coming into the Dining-room, where he found *Amicorus* alone; for *Amicana*, upon hearing her Uncle stir, stepped out to wash and cool her Eyes, and, to prevent his taxing her with Imprudence in being alone with *Amicorus*, tho' common Civility might well have been her sufficient Excuse. All Things were now made ready for their proceeding on their Journey, and they set forwards, and went to *Beltram*, which was Ten Miles from *Alboram*, and there stop'd at an Inn, where their Way parted from

from *Amicorus*'s, and where they must leave the Coach; and, indeed, *Parsimon* had a much nearer Way from *Marschet*, if the Coach had not induc'd him to go that Way; but going about, would now make it very late 'ere he could get Home, he having still Ten long Miles to go, but he could not be prevail'd on to stay at the Inn all Night, tho' he had complain'd very much of his Fatigue and Pain, and must needs ride a Horse, Ten Miles in the Dark, and in Hilly, Rocky Way, and over a deep and dangerous Ford. All the Women shew'd a great deal of Uneasiness and Fear to go that Night, but all in vain. Whilst their Horses were making ready, and they refreshing themselves, *Amicana* took a short Turn in the Garden, and when she came back, said she dreaded to think of riding that Way in the Dark; and since that to go to his House was Twelve Miles out of her Way, and as the Coach went Twelve Miles farther in her dire&t Way home (so that she could very well reach Home on the Morrow) she thought it would be better they should part there, except they stay'd all Night at *Beltram*.

PARSIMONT and *Petula* seem'd very much dissatisfy'd and displeas'd at her Proposal. She answer'd, it was now fair Weather, and might be bad, when she had been some Days at his House, and could not

not then get Home in less then two Days ; that great Part of the Road was Rocky, and ill for his Coach to pass ; and she could not expect to have the Use of it ; that his Fit of the Gout increasing, might make him unable to go Home with her as he intended, and therefore beg'd they would let her go directly Home. *Parsimont* told her she had no Regard for herself, or she wou'd not think of lying at an Inn, and travelling the next Day without any other Attendance than *Ursula* and *Dilley*. *Amicana* answer'd, that considering his Indisposition, she did not see any Prospect of her having any Body else to go Home with her from his House, which was much farther. And *Amicorus* then took the Liberty to tell *Parsimont*, that since he would not be perswad-ed to stay all Night at the Inn where they were, and that he thought *Amicana's* Fears of Danger were not needless, he would do himself the Honour to wait on her to the Inn where she propos'd to lodge, it being his Road, and but two Miles from his Cousin *Benemer's*, and that he wou'd wait on her Home the next Day, or as far as she pleas'd, or shou'd think necessary, and durst warrant the Coach should be at her Service.

P A R S I M O N T was so much out of Humour at *Amicorus's* Proposal, that, notwithstanding his Obligations to him, he had no room left for common Civility ; but

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told him he was an unworthy Man for making such an offer of Service, and had no Regard for a Lady's Honour; and that if she went that Way Home, she was ruin'd for ever. *Amicorus* took no notice of *Parfimont*'s Reproaches, or Censures; but very calmly reply'd; 'Sir, I have too great a Value for *Amicana*'s, or any Lady's Honour, to do any Thing that is not entirely consistent with it; and tho' I believe *Amicana* may with Safety, as to her Person, and Security to her Reputation, go Home Incognito as she appears to be, attended by so grave a Gentlewoman as *Ursula*, and by *Dilley*, who, I perceive, is her Servant, and is not a young Fellow; or especially having the Coach all the Way Home, which I doubt not of; and that her going that Way might be more easy both to you and herself (considering how unfit you are for Travelling) yet I shall humbly advise her to comply with your Opinion. But *Ursula* believing that going straight Home would be more for her own Ease and Convenience, and not liking to stay at *Parfimont*'s House, took the Liberty to say, that she could not perceive why any Scruple should be made to their going the direct Way home, but that it was much better so to do; which made *Amicana* still insist upon it. But *Parfimont* and *Petula* were so far from complying, that they fell into

into an unseemly Rage with both of them ; which so much affected *Amicana*, that, tho' she was of a very mild Temper, she had Spirit enough to resent her own, *Amicorus's*, and *Ursula's* ill Treatment ; and told 'em, she had been too much at their Command, and subject to their Humours, and would now take her own Measures : And being now come out of the House, and all in the Inn Yard, and the Coach standing ready, she said she was their most humble Servant, wish'd them well Home, and good Night ; (for she would not run the needless Hazards) which they were going to risque) of being drown'd, or dash'd to Pieces in the Dark, and so step'd into the Coach, and call'd *Ursula*, and bid her Servant *Dilley* follow her.

P A R S I M O N T was now so distract'd with Rage, that he bid *Dilley*, and his own Servant to take her out of the Coach, and, by Force, to set her on Horseback, and forbid the Coachman to take her at his Peril. *Amicorus* would have given the World to have had her gone his Way ; but fearing *Parsmont's* ill Conduct might make *Amicana's* going that Way be of ill Consequence, he stept to the Coach, and beg'd of her to comply with her Uncle's Humour, since to do otherwise might now make an unnecessary Noise in the World, to her Prejudice ; and there wanted not Spectators

to have done it. This she was soon aware of, and very readily gave him her Hand to take her out of the Coach. But this did not make *Parfimont* and *Petula* leave railing. *Amicana* very calmly and respectfully beg'd of them not to expose themselves and her, but to calm their Spirits, that they might be in good Temper, and part with *Amicorus* as friendly as they were oblig'd to do. She kiss'd them, to shew that she was not irreconcilable on her Part, and desir'd they would go again into the House, that she might dry up her Tears, and that she might go away in a compos'd and decent Order, which they consented to ; and there she, in a very handsome Manner, thank'd *Amicorus* for his good Offices, assuring him of a hearty Welcome at *Senex's*, if before he left that Country, he would make him a Visit. *Parfimont* thank'd him too, in a ceremonious Way ; and made him a half Invitation to his House, but excus'd himself on account of his own and *Petula's* Indisposition, and told him he had neither Son, nor Daughter at Home to be suitable Company for him, they being both Married and gone from him.

AMICORVS return'd his Compliment, and most humbly thank'd *Amicana*, in a particular Manner, for the Honour she did him, and wish'd her a good Journey, and all imaginable Happiness ; which done, he

he kiss'd them all, and so they parted good Friends.

A M I C O R U S perceiv'd a sudden Change in *Amicana's* Looks, and a shew of Concern at their Parting; and, for his Part, he thought his Heart was torn with Force and Violence from his Breast. He got into the Coach, the better there to indulge his Sorrow, and very Pensive he sat all the Way, still musing on *Amicana's* Beauty and bright Perfections, and reflecting on her unhappy Fate, and his own Disappointment.

WHEN he arriv'd at his Cousin *Benermer's*, he found nothing there that cou'd relieve him, tho' he was receiv'd with the kindest Welcome; but he could not be Company, and pretended to have got Cold in the Rain, and desir'd to go to Bed. But when in his Chamber, dismiss'd his Servant, and took a Pen, intending to describe that medly Hour of Transport and Torture, which alternately seiz'd him, whilst he was alone with *Amicana* at *Alboram*; but he found it impossible to express the Conflict of his Soul, between the rapturous Joys that first posseß'd it, when the wish'd for Opportunity to discover his Passion to *Amicana* appear'd; and the Pangs of Grief and Sorrow that seiz'd it, upon *Amicana's* relating her miserable State. He seem'd as if carry'd away with a rapid Torrent of Woe,

or to be in some terrible Trance, or mortifying Dream ; or, as if his whole Frame of Body and Mind was suddenly Transform'd into some miserable Creature, such as human Nature can have no adequate Idea of ; or that can be described to human Understanding. And this was his wretched Case, 'till he could reflect a little on the Change which Time makes in all Things , and thence hope it might 'ere long put an end to *Amicana's* Misery, and begin a longer Series of their joint Felicity, he being resolv'd to wait with Patience, 'till that happy Change should providentially come.

AND now by considering Senex's Age, and remipding himself of *Amicana's* Respect for him, &c. with this Foundation of Hope he calm'd his anxious Spirit, and went to Rest. But large Remains of Grief would oft' accost him, even amongst the most agreeable Company, and pleasant Diversions. He found it would be Imprudent to discover his Sorrow whilst he must conceal the Cause of it ; and that he must unavoidably stifle it in his own suffering Breast.

BUT as he found it necessary to tell *Bennemer*, with whom he had travell'd from *Haumont*, and that it would be diverting to give him the whole Account of their Journey. (except what related to *Amicana* and

and himself) in particular; this gave him an Opportunity of hearing *Benemer* and *Clarissa*, his Lady, give *Amicana* a most excellent Character; and they were not utter Strangers to the Character of *Senex Tygaris*, and of *Parsimont* and *Petula*, tho' they had but little Conversation with them.

WHILST *Amicorus* was hessitating on what Pretence he could unsuspected take a Journey to *Uphorum* which was near *Senex's* Seat, thinking when he was so near *Amicana*, he might very well be allow'd to make her a Visit of Complement; *Benemer* and his Lady were invited by *Accoram*, a Gentleman of his Acquaintance, to a Horse Race, and other Diversions, at *Uphorum*, and were desir'd to repose themselves some Days before the Race began at his House, which was in *Senex's* Neighbourhood.

BENEMER accepted the Invitation, and desir'd *Amicorus* would go with them; he very readily answer'd he would wait on them, and did so with a great deal of Pleasure. He then wanted no Pretence for waiting on *Amicana*, and it would have been a Fault not to do it; so after they had rested one Day at *Accoram's* Seat, *Amicorus* went to *Senex's* House, and found a very kind Welcome. *Ursula*, who first receiv'd him, shew'd a Joy at his Appearance, and told him *Senex* long'd to see him, having been told

told how much they were all oblig'd to him. He did not expect to find an Opportunity to say much to *Amicana* a-part, and so had prepar'd a Letter to give her, which he found a convenient Time to offer to her; and, upon his assuring her, there was nothing in it that could give her any Offence, or that was not allowable by the strictest Rules of Virtue, She receiv'd it; and when she had Opportunity read it, and she found Time to tell him she was pleas'd with it, and would write him an Answer, but that she could not do it whilst he stayed there; but as he had perswaded *Senex* to go to the Race, and that he had said he would take her with him (which was indeed a Wonder) she would watch for an Opportunity to put her Letter into his Hand.

SENEX having been acquainted with *Benemer's* Father, and his Lady's Family, was very desirous to see them, and to have some Discourse with them, which gave *Amicana* a very good Opportunity to convey her Letter into *Amicorus's* Hand.

SENEX's bringing his Lady to the Race was the Wonder of all the Company; for he did not use to take her any where, much less to publick Shows. Nor did he suffer her to go any where, or to stir out of Doors without *Ursula*, or one *Falasia*, in whom he much confided; nor was Company permitted to visit her, except Women,

men, and such as would allow of *Ursula's* being in the Company : Perhaps, he was afraid Men would come in Womens Cloths ; or that Women might come as Proxies for some Young Gentlemen, which, indeed, was attempted, but in vain ; for *Amicana* was not to be tempted. She had, indeed, a tender compassionate Nature, and always shewed it to all in Affliction, or under any Uneasiness of Mind ; and was, in reality, tender of *Senex* when he was Indispos'd, or in Pain.

SHE did not tell *Amicorus* all the Particulars of her Hardships, but by what he afterwards learn'd, some of them were too gross to name. It must needs be grievous (not to mention the bodily Infirmities of old Age) to be always with one who would shew no Marks of Kindness, nor be pleas'd with what was done, at least, with some Degree of real Tenderness and Respect. Distrust and Avarice had made him keep her without Money, and but indifferent and grave Habit, to prevent her being too aluring ; and, indeed, he made himself Wretched in making her Miserable. But he was now in somewhat better Health, and seem'd in so much better Humour, as to take *Amicana* to the Race, and (if not done with Design) to allow her more Freedom in Conversation than before ; but she was now above four Years older than when she was Married, and

and might be allowed a little more Liberty. But this was allowed but by fits, and, perhaps, on purpose to seek Occasion to accuse her, and to excuse his ill using her, and his leaving her in no better Circumstances than he did; for she was grown more indifferent to him, tho' without giving him any Occasion for it. But Love, in a Temper, like his, could prove but a sudden Flash, or short Blaze, and soon be out: And, even being unable to answer his own vain Desires, made him uneasy to see, and almost to hate the Object of those fruitless Desires, and yet he often durst not trust her out of his Sight.

BUT to remark no farther on this disagreeable Marriage, I shall now shew you *Amicorus's Letter*, and *Amicana's Answer*.
Amicorus to Amicana. ' Madam, The sudden Interruption that was unhappily put to our Discourse at *Alboram*, makes it necessary for me to beg leave, by this Letter, to tell you what is requisite, to a right Understanding between us. I humbly beg Pardon for the Liberty, which want of Time and Opportunity, forces me to take. I had discover'd my Passion for you, and you had express'd a friendly Respect for me, but, perhaps, you might not always remain fully satisfied, whether I meant honourable and virtuous Love, or not. You might imagine

gine, that I had then heard, that you were
Married ; and so only design'd to delude
you to a dishonourable Conversation, or
Enjoyment ; or that I may be vain
enough to flatter my self with making an
easy Conquest ; but I solemnly protest I
neither knew that you were Married, nor
who, nor what you were as to Family, or
Fortune. I was an entire Stranger in
the Country, and your Beauty had charm'd
and captivated me at first Sight, and to
encrease that sudden Flame, I had Time
to observe that you were a perfect well-
bred Lady, and of a virtuous Behaviour. An
extraordinary Occasion shew'd your excel-
lent Temper, bright Genius, and prudent
Conduct; all which combin'd to fix and revit
my Love unalterably, on such an unparal-
lel'd Object of Love ; but I thought I
perceiv'd some seeming Reason to appre-
hend that you were not Married , but
at your Uncle's Disposal, and I was re-
solv'd not to discover my Thoughts, or
apply my Suit to him. And I humbly
assure you, Madam, that after you had
told me of your Marriage, in the friendly
Manner you express'd your sad Fate, I
had the same good Sentiments of your
Virtue as before. Nor did it create in
me any vicious Desire, or sinister Design.
And the excellent Character which I now
find the World gives you, so highly en-
creases

‘ creases my Esteem for you, that I could
‘ with Patience wait as long to obtain you in
‘ Marriage, as Jacob did for his fair Rachael.
‘ I cannot be so wicked as to wish Senex’s
‘ Death; and am far from imagining you
‘ don’t entirely resign your self to God’s
‘ Providence, but, as in all human Probabi-
‘ lity, he may not live many Years; and as
‘ want of Time and Opportunity forces me
‘ not to delay my humble and sincere Pro-
‘ posals, I beg, and hope, you will at least
‘ pardon me; and as my ardent, virtuous
‘ and unalterable Love for you, makes me
‘ peremptorily Importunate, I humbly beg
‘ leave now solemnly to promise, and faith-
‘ fully to assure you, that I will wait your
‘ being free, and at your own Disposal; and
‘ will then be yours on your own Terms, if
‘ you will condescend to promise, then to
‘ make me Happy, in being yours forever.
‘ The Favour I ask is an unusual one, but
‘ the Case between us is singular. Yet,
‘ however, great my Passion is, I should not
‘ presume to ask any such Promise, had you
‘ not declar’d a more than ordinary Respect
‘ for me: And pardon me, dear Madam,
‘ if I take the Liberty to say, it was in such
‘ a Manner express’d, as, I wou’d flatter
‘ my self, seem’d like Love. But, indeed,
‘ it appears to be such a virtuous Love,
‘ as I sincerely believe is entirely free
‘ from the least impure Desire, or criminal
‘ Thought;

' Thought ; nor will I ever seek your Love,
' but with strict Virtue, and in honourable
' Marriage : And so far am I from desiring
' any other Enjoyment, that tho' I cou'd
' wish never to be out of your Sight, yet
' I consider that my taking a few Opportu-
' nities to see you, or to find some Pretence
' to live near you, tho' in the most innocent
' Manner, might expose you to Censure :
' And I am therefore preparing to go farther
' from you ; but not without Hopes that
' I may by Letter converse with you in a
' friendly Manner, or some way oft' hear
' of your Health and State. I am advis'd
' and inclin'd to study the Law at *Carentam*,
' which may be of good Use to me, tho' I
' intend not to practice Law ; and there are
' some other Things necessary for a Gen-
' tleman to know, which may be learn'd
' there better than elsewhere.

' I know you have a just Value for your
' Reputation, and I humbly assure you so
' have I ; and wou'd desire nothing that
' may be in the least prejudicial to it : But
' I hope a friendly Letter Correspondence
' cannot injure you : And I must humbly
' beg you will, if possible, condescend to
' converse with me in that Manner ; which,
' if you vouchsafe to do, that Favour will
' give me the highest Delight that I can, in
' your Absence, possibly enjoy in this
' World. And I shall never be easy with-

F ' out

‘ out some way hearing oft’ of, or from you.
‘ You may please to write to me as if to
‘ one of your own Sex, and may instruct
‘ me how I may safely direct to you: And
‘ if you shall please to grant this my hum-
‘ ble Request, I assure you I will never
‘ abuse your Favours, or write any Thing,
‘ that, if intercepted, can give any Occa-
‘ sion for Censure, or Scandal.

‘ I humbly beg you’ll favour me with a
‘ Line in answer to this, if possible, whilst
‘ I stay here, which will infinitely oblige
‘ your most faithfully devoted, &c.

A M I C A N A’s Answer was as follows.
Amicana to Amicorus. ‘ Sir, I read your
‘ Letter with the greatest Pleasure; not only
‘ because it shews, that what you assur’d
‘ me of its inoffensive and innocent Design is
‘ real Truth, for that I did not at all distrust;
‘ but it must needs be very pleasing to have
‘ repeated Confirmations of your real and
‘ fix’d Virtue: And it gives me a great Sa-
‘ tisfaction to have your candid Opinion of
‘ my Conduct. But yet, when I reflect on
‘ what happen’d, when we were alone at *Al-*
‘ *boram*, and on my Resolution to part from
‘ my Uncle, and to go your Way from the
‘ Inn at *Beltram*, leaves some room to doubt
‘ whether you would always retain the
‘ same favourable Sentiments of me. And
‘ I am glad your Letter gives me a kind
‘ Occasion, and allows me Opportunity to
‘ excuse

excuse and justify my self on both those Accounts. You might, perhaps, sometime hence, calmly consider of those Incidents, so far, as to believe it was your sudden Transport, and excess of Love, that made you judge so kindly of me : And at last determine that I was not entirely innocent in my Thoughts and Intentions. But, indeed, had I never found an Opportunity to set that Matter in a true Light, I shou'd have had this Comfort left, that you wou'd never have heard any thing of me, that, with any shew of Justice, could have induc'd you to think me guilty of any, even the least criminal Desire, or Design. And I hope, I may sometime have Opportunity, to shew you, by sufficient Testimonies, that I have withstood the greatest Temptations, amidst my intolerable Confinement with so disagreeable a Companion, and tyrannical Master : And Time may farther shew you, that I shall ever have the highest and strictest Regard to Honour, Justice, Virtue and Reputation : And now to excuse my self, to my own Satisfaction, for what past between us, and to confirm your good Opinion of my Innocence, I hope you might plainly perceive, as well as favourably believe me, that in the Disorder I was in, whilst alone with you at *Alborum*, when I felt an inexpressible Trou-

ble in my Breast, I was as insensible of any Thing, as if I had been really Dead, 'till my fainting Spirits were a little recover'd ; and then, I remember, I started, amaz'd to think where I lay'd my Head, and how long I had been supported in your Arms : But I was far from imagining that you had offer'd any Indecency, so found no Cause to be angry, but rather to thank you for your Care and good Office.

THERE was several Things concur'd to induce me to tell you my Misfortune ; but it was my just Opinion of you that fix'd my Resolution to disclose my Sorrows to you ; in doing which, if I seem'd over free, or any how unguarded, the Confusion I was in, might, I hope, excuse me : Yet I shall now freely tell you, that were it to do again, and upon mature Deliberation, considering it as the only Opportunity I cou'd expect ; I think I shou'd not have been very much more reserv'd in my Discovery of my Thoughts. But, indeed, had I been unmarried, I shou'd, after your discovering your Paf-
fion, have conceal'd my own Sentiments, as long as Prudence cou'd require it ; as there cou'd, in that Case, be no Objection to your Admission to see me, as oft' as was proper, for you to continue your Addresses. Or, as the Case is, I being Married, had you been indifferent to me, and I not had

' had a fix'd Opinion of your Virtue, I
' shou'd only have told you I was Married,
' and desir'd you to find another Subject ;
' which, if you had not done, I shou'd in-
' stantly have left the Room. But what if
' I shou'd now own, that I had too great an
' Esteem for you, and Confidence in you,
' not to give you some Hopes that we might
' in Time be happy together ; and was wil-
' ling to encourage you to hold some un-
' blamable Correspondence with me ; and,
' indeed, I cou'd not think of acting so as
' to prevent your offering a Desire to con-
' tinue our Acquaintance. And now I must
' assure you, I had no other private Design
' in parting from my Uncle at *Beloram*, than
' to excuse my self for what had past at
' *Alboram*; as being most unwilling to suffer,
' in the leaſt, in your Opinion ; and I own
' I was willing to make a farther Tryal of
' your Virtue. I thought I might find half
' an Hours Opportunity at *Tuedon*, to try
' whether your seeming Cause of Misap-
' prehension might prompt you to make
' some false Attacks, to discover whether
' my Virtue was ſuch in reality, as I had
' affirm'd it to be : Or, that if your Virtue
' was not as true, as it now appears to be,
' you wou'd make ſome Attempts to ſatisfy
' a base Design ; and if the first had been
' the Caſe, I ſhould have diſcover'd your
' doubting of my Innocence, and have had

' the Satisfaction of clearing my self: And
' if the latter had been your Design, which
' must needs have distinguish'd it self, I
' should have given you Reafon to know,
' that I should, from that Moment, have
' abhor'd and despis'd you; and if
' that very Instant had not distinguish'd
' your Intentions, Time, and your future
' Behaviour, must needs have prov'd it
' beyond all Doubt. And I own, nothing
' but my high Esteem for you, could have
' prevail'd on me to run that Hazzard. But
' what need I mention Esteem, when it
' wou'd be Folly to deny, that I Love you:
' I freely own I do, and only you, in any
' high Degree; but, indeed, it is with a vir-
' tuous Love, in the strictest Sence; and
' you shall find it ever continue a pure and
' lambent Flame. And now I will frankly
' confess (what I imagine you in part per-
' ceiv'd) that my Heart was as thoroughly
' pleas'd at the first Sight of you (at *Hau-*
' *mont*) as yours cou'd be when you first cast
' your Eyes upon me: You, at that Time,
' seem'd to be in a sudden Transport; and
' so, indeed, was I: I had never, 'till then,
' felt the piercing Dart of Love enter my
' Breast; nor cou'd it be expected in such
' a disagreeable forc'd Marriage: But if
' my Marrying was a Fault, however, pref-
' sed to comply, it may be forgiven one of
' Sixteen, and my Sufferings may attone
' for

for it ; and it shall be my only Fault, for
I will never transgress, what is become
my Duty, but ever strictly perform it,
'till Time shall dissolve the Obligation. I
will love *Senex* as well as I can, and will
neither hate, nor injure him, nor revenge
my own ill Treatment, for which I pray
God to forgive him. But now, *Amicorus*,
let me a little farther consider the Case
between us ; it might, with some shew of
Reason, be suppos'd, after the Discovery
I have made, of becoming a sudden Cap-
tive to Love ; that had we been alone at
our first Interview, I might have fallen an
easy Prey to a dishonourable Conquest,
had you attempted it. But, I think, it's
hardly to be imagin'd, that any Man (ex-
cept a meer lewd Profligate) wou'd have
made any rude Attempt so soon ; and, I
think, and am perswaded, that neither
Force, nor insinuating Persuasions, cou'd
have extorted a Compliance in me to any
Man, much less to an absolute Stranger,
however much I might have lik'd his Per-
son : And a little Time wou'd have taken
off my Surprize, and have put me upon
my Guard ; and my fix'd Resolution
wou'd then have enabl'd me to have dis-
appointed, and render'd abortive, any
base Attempt. And now to answer your
Request, tho' you ask nothing that is in-
consistent with strict Virtue ; yet I can't
think

' think it entirely equitable to grant your
' Request, with respect to your self; for you
' are Free, and I am Bound. But as there
' is no Time for defering my Sentiments,
' my good Opinion of you leads me now
' to give you this positive Answer. And I
' shall, on my Part, make no scruple to
' assure you, that were I free, it would be
' the utmost of my Wish to be yours: But
' it can't be just for me to expect you shou'd
' wait for such an Uncertainty as my Re-
' lease. For *Senex* is unexpectedly restor'd
' to such a State of Health, that he may
' probably live many Years, and may pos-
' sibly bury me. And why should you loose
' your Time on a doubtful Expectation,
' when you may so far wean your Affection
' from me, as to Love, and be Happy in
' Marriage with another! I have shewn
' you why I can't in Justice accept your of-
' fer'd Promise; and, on the same Account,
' I ought not to give you mine. Let it be
' sufficient, dear *Amicorus*, that we vow an
' inviolable Friendship; and I solemnly af-
' sure you I will be entirely directed by
' you, when, if ever, I am at Liberty so to
' be. In the mean Time you will be per-
' feetly in the right, to go to the Capital to
' finish your Study, and increase your
' Learning, in whatever may tend to com-
' pleat so worthy a Gentleman. The Plea-
' sure of seeing you, shou'd you continue
 in

' in this Part of the World, cou'd be but
' seldome, short, and dangerous ; and under
' Restraint and Uneasiness : And would be
' follow'd by long, anxious, painful Re-
' flections ; which Distance, and continu'd
' Absence, will, in some Degree, moderate ;
' and will render Hope and Expectation
' more easy. And, as you rightly observe,
' your very being in this Country, might
' give occasion for Censure.

' I am very willing to embrace the distant
' Conversation you desire ; but it can be but
' seldom, for you must direct for me at *Senex's*
' House, and frequent Letters may give Sus-
' picion. Had I a trusty Friend, to whom you
' might enclose your Letters to me, Acci-
' dents might make a Discovery, to your
' Prejudice and my Ruin. But the only safe
' Way we can correspond must be this ; I
' have a Relation, with whom I desire you
' should be acquainted, whose Name is *Lu-*
' *cinda* ; a Young Lady about my Age. We
' were bred up together, 'till my Father
' died, and we love as Sisters. She is much
' in Town, or if not, my Direction is the
' same. I am allow'd to correspond with
' her about once a Month ; and I shall give
' her some Reason for making our Inter-
' course of Letters less frequent than usual ;
' and sometimes write to you ; which I shall
' direct to you, by her Name, to such Place
' as you shall appoint. I have inclos'd two
 ' of

' of her Letters, that you may imitate her
' Hand and Stile, which I imagine you will
' easily learn, for she writes a plain round
' Hand: And it will be necessary that you con-
' fine your self to such Subje&ts as Women write
' upon, and to their usual Way of Writing.

' Let it be sufficient that we can
' that Way know, of each others Health:
' And as for my directing to *Lucinda* at two
' different Places, I shall be so cautious, as
' to send them to the Post-House, by differ-
' ent Persons. And so seldom as once a
' Month, will prevent its being taken no-
' tice of. Or, it may be reasonably thought
' that she (as well as others) sometimes
' changes her Lodgings; all which Precau-
' tions, will, I hope, effectually prevent any
' jealous Surmise. As I write to you by
' her Name, I shall call her *Fidelia*, and to
' her, call you *Fidelius*, to prevent Disco-
' very. I imagine you will be in Town in a
' Month's Time, and then I hope to see that
' you can imitate *Lucinda*'s Hand, so well, as to
' deceive even me. It may be three Months
' ere she goes to Town; and then I shall
' tell her, I recommended you when here,
' to her Acquaintance. And I desire you to
' wait on her sometimes, and then you must
' expect to hear from me, but at double
' Distance of Time, and be content to
' know by her Letters alternately, how I
' am. But she shall know nothing of my
' writing

writing to you, for Confidants are needless. You will find her, when in Town, at—— I think I need not add, but my good Wishes for your Prosperity, and that I am entirely, and faithfully yours, &c.

WHEN they (parted at the Horse Race) their Eyes bid each other a kind Farewel; and *Amicorus*, after a shorter stay at *Benermer's*, than he intended, rode to his Aunts; and telling her the Necessity of his speedy Return to the Capital to finish his Studies; she being a Lady of Reason would not keep him from it to his Prejudice. He had every Day practis'd to imitate *Lucinda's* Hand; and, on his Arrival at *Carentans*, made some enquiry of *Lucinda*, as by *Amicana's* Commands; and having inform'd himself of the State of her Health, and of other Relations, which she used to mention in her Letters; he then wrote to *Amicana*, and kept so close to *Lucinda's* Hand, and Manner of Writing, that if the Letter had not mention'd a new Direction, she said she should have thought it to be the real *Lucinda's* Letter. Love, which makes the hardest Task seem easy, had so far inspir'd *Amicorus's* Genius, in learning that Lesson, by which Means their Correspondence was long unsuspected.

WHEN *Lucinda* had been in Town some Months, *Amicana* wrote to them both, to know their Opinion of each other,

other, and was highly pleas'd with their respective Answers.

SHE found their Acquaintance was grown very friendly, and that *Lucinda* might be easily won to love *Amicorus*; and, indeed, she did love, or like him at first Sight, tho' with Moderation; but yet so as that she could not think of Marrying any other Person if he would Marry her. And tho' *Amicana* had no such Design when she parted from him, yet now, as *Senex's* Health seem'd establish'd, and that either Grief, or an unnecessary Use of *Sandon* Waters, or both, had brought upon her an ill State of Health, which was like to prove a ling'ring Death; she now wrote to him in good Earnest, for the above Reason, to wean his Thoughts from her, and to set his Affections upon *Fidelia* (i. e. *Lucinda*) in whom he would find all that he could expect in *Amicana*; besides the Addition of a very considerable Fortune, which was necessary for him, and would render all his Circumstances easy. Her Manner of Writing on that Subject, was, as if it were, to persuade *Lucinda* to encourage (*Amicorus* by the Name of) *Fidelius*, to court *Fidelia* (i. e. the real *Lucinda*) and this she press'd him to do in several Letters, but all in vain; he resolving to keep his fix'd Resolution, never to think of Marrying any one but *Amicana*,

at

at least whilst she liv'd : Tho' *Lucinda* was both in Beauty, Genius and Temper, equal to *Amicana*, besides the Advantage of Fortune. And *Amicana* wrote to the real *Lucinda* to recommend *Fidelius* (i. e.) *Amicorus*, to her for a Husband ; and she was answer'd by her, that tho' she believ'd he had a just Respect and Value for their Sex, yet she could not discern that he had the least Inclination to Marry. *Amicana*, however, wrote once more to *Amicorus*, to prevail with him to alter his Resolution : But, notwithstanding all Precaution, some Umbrage was, by this Time, taken of her Writing more frequently than usual, and directing to *Lucinda* at two Places. *Ursula*, who was always a very Hipocrite, but never before had found any Pretence to accuse *Amicana*, nor any just one now, was base enough to think of advancing herself by attempting *Amicana's* Ruin ; and for that End insinuated to *Senex*, that she imagin'd *Amicana* had some Intrigue in hand ; and told him, if he pleas'd, she would have her next Letter brought to him to see what she wrote.

SENEX, notwithstanding the extraordinary Proofs, which *Amicana* had before had Opportunity to give him, of her unshaken Virtue and Fidelity, was ready to take Fire at every seeming Spark ; and Jealousy being his Temper, and now roused from its Slumber, he approv'd of

Ursula's base Insinuation and Counsel. She intercepted *Amicana's* Letter and brought it to him, which he read, and seems to have bid her read it, and give him her Opinion of it, as appears by the Sequel. The Letter, first mention'd *Senex's* good State of establish'd Health, and her own continu'd Indisposition, to be without Hopes of Recovery. And after mentioning some indifferent Things, purposely to divide her intended Application from the Reasons above given for such Advice; she then press'd *Lucinda*, by all Means, to prevail with *Fidelius* not to delay his Overtures of Marriage to *Fidelia*, or it might prove too late (meaning, but not mentioning, that *Lucinda* was courted by a Gentleman whom she had no Reason to dislike, and which he could not but know of, so was needless for her to mention.) Different Senses may be put upon, or apply'd to any Thing to serve a Turn: And thus, without all Foundation, or shew of Reason, this Letter, is by them, in Consultation, constru'd to mean that *Amicana* is *Fidelia*, and *Amicorus* is *Fidelius*; that she is dying in Love for him, and if he don't come speedily and take her away from *Senex*, her Death will make it too late; (not that any fictitious Names were used in their Correspondence, only *Amicorus* and *Lucinda* were mentioned by other proper Names, as if they really were other

other Persons) *Ursula*, to make this Construction seem more probable, told *Senex* what high Encomiums *Amicana* had given *Amicorus* at *Marshet*; from whence it was thought evident, that she was in Love with him, and therefore the rest of their Suggestions must needs be right. *Amicana* was call'd for, and charg'd with holding Intrigues, under Pretence of being a Match-Maker, which, she was told, did not become her; and she was prohibited all Manner of Correspondence, and must neither write, nor receive any Letters. It was in vain for her to shew how groundless their Suspicion was, or to plead her own Innocency; she was now kept under such Restraint, that it was wonder'd at by all the Neighbourhood.

But *Ursula* did not think this Restraint sufficient, but she told *Senex*, that *Amicana* might still correspond with *Amicorus*, by means of some Confidant; and that therefore the only way to prevent it, was for her to write to *Lucinda*, that, after a long Indisposition, *Amicana* was Dead; which *Senex* approving of, she immediately wrote, and directed the Letter for *Lucinda* at the Place where *Amicorus* used to receive *Amicana's* Letters: And resolving to make sure Work of it, or to try to discover something, she wrote the Post following to the real *Lucinda*, by the old Direction, to tell

her that *Amicana* was Dead. It was certainly a very rash and base Action; but she knowing that *Lucinda* had no Acquaintance in that Country, believed she would not quickly be undeceiv'd, and she thought in reality that *Amicana* could not live long; but her main Design was, at any rate, to insinuate her self into *Senex's* Favour, let who wou'd suffer by it: And, indeed, this groundless Suspicion was sufficient to induce him to alter his Will, and to give *Amicana* less, and *Ursula* more, than by his former Will.

BUT now we must leave poor *Amicana* in her deplorable Distress, and cast our Eyes upon the miserable *Amicorus*. He was just preparing to wait on *Lucinda*, on account of some Business which she had desir'd him to do for her, when *Ursula's* Letter was put into his Hands, which brought the sham Account of *Amicana's* Death; which plunged him into such an Abyss of Woe, that it was impossible for him to see any Body, or to do any Thing else but to Lament and Mourn, both hers, and his own unhappy Fate; and the better to hide his Sorrows, he went instantly into the Country, without letting any Body know where; only he knew *Lucinda* would expect him to give her some Account of her Affairs; which he found impossible to do Personally, but by Letter; and as she knew nothing

thing of his Letter Correspondence with *Amicana*, he did not think it proper, by his Letter, to mention her Death to her; at least, not 'till he had a little over-come the violent Shock of Grief, which, would be very unfit for her to know: But he wrote to tell her, that he could not yet finish her Affair, and to beg she would pardon his not waiting on her, being oblig'd to go, that Moment, a little Way into the Country, on account of a Friend, whose Life was dispar'd of (but his secret Meaning was to mourn *Amicana's* Death, and whose Life he must needs dispair of) he told her if in his short Absence any Thing might be necessary to be done in her Affair, if she pleas'd to let him know it by a Line, he would write to a Friend in Town to wait on her about it, and one, on whose Capacity and Fidelity she might depend. He sent the Letter by a Porter, his Horses being at the Door, who was order'd to tell her that he was gone, for fear she should desire to speak with him. But 'ere he went, he sent for his Taylor, and order'd him to make him, with all speed, a Suit of Mourning, and then took Horse.

LUCINDA having a Letter the next ensuing Post from *Ursula*, giving an Account of *Amicana's* Death; and, as she thought she ought in Civility, to write to tell *Amicorus*, that there was no need to

66 *Amicorus and Amicana.*

trouble his Friend about her Affairs, but that she would wait his coming to Town ; she added, that she was under the greatest Affliction, on account of the Death of her dear Friend *Amicana*. *Amicorus* thought it would be unpardonable not to answer her Letter ; but was under a great Dilema what to write, or what to resolve upon : Sometimes he was for resolving never to Marry, but whilst he liv'd to mourn *Amicana's* Death : Sometimes, that he would not think of Marrying for some Years ; but, as he believ'd a Married State much happier than Celibacy, and that he could not call *Amicana* back, nor Benefit her by depriving himself of Happiness ; and considering, that if she could possibly know it, she would rejoice to have him Marry *Lucinda* ; and that, indeed, *Lucinda* was in Person, the Picture, and, in all Respects, the same as *Amicana*, and that he imagin'd her Equal was not to be found ; and that, if he made any Delay, she might be engag'd to another. These Cogitations helped to break off the strong Impressions of first Love, and to moderate his Grief for the Death of his beloved ; and to make him think he ought to take *Amicana's* Advice ; and to comply with her pressing Desires, that he should Marry *Lucinda* : And in the Conclusion, he wrote to tell *Lucinda*, that he was very much concern'd for the
Death

Death of *Amicana*, for his own Part, as having had a great Respect for her as a Friend. But the Sence he had of her Affliction, on that Account, added very greatly to his Sorrow ; and humbly beg'd leave to tell her, that he should always bear the greatest Share in what ever affected her in any kind, which was a sort of Overture of Love ; he added , that his Friend being now dead (secretly meaning *Amicana*) he should, after the Funeral, come to Town, and would do himself the Honour to wait on her, to receive her farther Commands, in relation to her Affairs. But Grief still sat so heavy upon him, that he could not appear in Town, especially not in *Lucinda's* Sight ; and so he wrote that he was Indispos'd, and stay'd near a Month.

DURING his Stay in the Country, she wrote a friendly Answer to his Letter, which oblig'd him to make an Acknowledgement of her Goodness ; which he did in such Expressions, as she afterwards owned she took to be, tho' not in plain Terms, an agreeable Declaration of Love.

ON his arrival in Town he appear'd in Mourning, and being ask'd for whom, he said a Friend, meaning *Amicana*, who had left him a good Legacy (secretly meaning *Lucinda*, whom *Amicana* had, in good Will, left him as a Legacy.) When he went to wait on *Lucinda*, her Grief broke out afresh,

fresh, and she seem'd very Disconsolate : And *Amicorus* much more felt sad Pangs of Grief, which he endeavour'd to conceal ; and, after a little while, he rally'd his sinking Spirits, and frankly told her, their Case being the same, they must console one another ; and propos'd her doing him the Honour to permit him to conduct her to a Comedy, which he prevail'd on her to do, and she own'd it had very much diverted her Sorrow. And now, without loss of Time, he soon after discover'd, and plainly declar'd his Affection for her, which she receiv'd in a favourable and friendly Manner ; and as soon as Prudence would admit (having discarded, and absolutely refus'd all other Pretenders) she agreed on Terms, and consented to make him her Husband : And thus she, who had been long courted by others in vain, at once gave her Heart to *Amicorus*. Their Marriage had not been long Consummated, 'ere *Amicana* wrote to tell *Lucinda*, and *Amicorus* both, that *Senex* being unexpectedly and suddenly dead of a Fit of an Apoplexy, she had now that Liberty to converse with her Friends, which she had for some Time been unreasonably depriv'd of, and desir'd to know how they did. This Letter gave *Lucinda* a great Surprize, but *Amicorus* a much greater ; but *Lucinda* knew not of *Amicorus's* having a Letter from her, for he had never

never told her of having a Letter Correspondence with her : Nor can the strictest Ties of Friendship require to know what common Prudence disallows. And because he would not have *Lucinda* imagine he wanted any other Motive to Love her than her own Merit, which, indeed, needed not any Addition, he had not, 'till after their Marriage, told her that he had receiv'd one Letter from *Amicana*, recommending her to him for a Wife ; and pressing it upon him as his real Interest, and surest Happiness.

LUCINDA, as it was properly her Part to do, wrote an Answer to *Amicana's* Letter, that she thought she ought much rather to Congratulate her being Alive, as having believ'd her Dead, than condole, with her, the Death of *Senex* : That, for her own sake, she had Reason to rejoice, in knowing that her dear *Amicana* was Alive, and that she could now freely converse with her, and hop'd they might now enjoy a personal Conversation together, which she should esteem as a very great Happiness. She added, that she was now experimentally sensible of her very great Obligations to her, for having shewn her kind Endeavours to be instrumental in her present Happiness, in being Married to *Amicorus* ; who, she said, excell'd all that could be said of him, and was, doubtless, the best of Husbands. And that tho' she believ'd

believ'd he was chiefly led by his own Inclination, yet she had a greater Sence of Gratitude for her good Offices than cou'd be express'd by Words ; and that she shou'd be very glad of all Opportunities to shew it in real Effects ; and assur'd her, that *Amicorus* had the same grateful Sentiments of her Friendship, and joyn'd with her, very heartily, in wishing her Happiness ; and in assuring her of his friendly Endeavours to promote it ; and concluded with desiring a particular State of her Health.

AMICORUS thank'd his now belov'd and wedded *Lucinda*, for speaking his real Sentiments in so just and kind a Manner : But he thought himself oblig'd to write privately to *Amicana* ; and after making some such Compliments of Congratulation and Condolance, as *Lucinda* had done, he, in a very moving Way, told her how much his present real Joys were mix'd with Sorrow, on her Account. He found himself very happy in *Lucinda*, and heartily rejoyc'd to know that she was Alive, and restor'd to Health : And assur'd her, could he have imagin'd she was Alive, he would never have sought for Happiness but in her Arms. He heartily beg'd her Pardon for being too credulous in believing *Ursula's* Letter ; but that her own Account of her ill State of Health, had contributed

to

to his want of suspecting her Infidelity ; and that he now thought it rash Folly to the last degree, for *Ursula* to have offer'd at any such Deceit : And after mentioning (as an Excuse for his so speedy Marriage) what is above-said, and of his revolving Thoughts , upon his receiving *Lucinda's* Letter to him in the Country, and of what to write to her (as in Page 44) he then told her, all that was now to be done, was to continue that inviolable Friendship, which was all that she of late seem'd to desire, and beg'd they might now unite in a brotherly and sisterly Love ; and assur'd her that nothing should be wanting, on his Part, to contribute to her Happiness ; and wish'd she would favour him and *Lucinda* with her good Company, as what they both of 'em earnestly wish'd and long'd for, and beg'd to have a speedy Account of her Health.

AMICANA's Surprize at the News of their Marriage , was as great, as the Account they sent her of believing her Dead. But an innate Goodness and Justice, had, by degrees, contributed towards the changing her first flash of Love, into a solid Friendship. And she wrote to both of 'em in a Letter to *Lucinda*, to wish them Joy, and to assure them how much she rejoyc'd in their Happiness, and told them she had fully

fully recover'd her Health which she never expected to do.

SHE thought herself oblig'd once more to write privately to *Amicorus*, to tell him she had nothing to accuse him of, having before told him what she had Reason to believe to be true; that if he did not speedily make his Application to *Lucinda*, it would be too late; and that his taking her Advice, when he believ'd her Dead, shew'd a grateful Respect to her Memory, and was the only Way to alleviate his Sorrows for her suppos'd Death; that she should ever esteem him as a kind Brother, and doubted not but he would value her as a loving Sister.

SHE thank'd 'em both for their kind Invitation, but said nothing in either of her Letters of her own particular Affairs; or whether she did, or did not accept their Invitation. But on their desiring in another Letter to her, to know how she inclin'd to dispose of herself, as to her Place of Abode, &c. and to re-invite her, and press her to come to them. She then wrote, that *Ursula's* wicked Practices had so far had their Effects, that she had a great deal of Money left her by *Senex*, but that she herself had not sufficient to keep her as a Gentlewoman. He had, as before-mention'd, alter'd his Will, tho' he might have been ashame'd to leave her

her so little as he had done at first, and *Junion*, his selfish Son being alive, she had no Expectation of any Thing from him: And he left a Will for no other Reason but to cut off *Amicana's* Pretensions to his Personal Estate, which was very considerable. But to make sure Work of it, he had given it all away before his Death; perhaps, as finding some Symptoms of an Apoplexy, which he, as an indolent, but willful sullen Temper'd Man, conceal'd. He was ashame'd to allege his ill-grounded Jealousy, as a Pretence for leaving *Amicana* so little; but said, he not only had no Fortune with her, but was oblig'd to give her Uncle *Parfimont* a considerable Sum for his forcing her to his Arms. *Amicana* had a Friend, who, seeing in what poor Manner she was left, persuaded her to give him leave to go to tell her Uncle *Parfimont* how Matters stood, and what *Senex* had said, to see what Effects it might produce. *Parfimont* roundly deny'd what *Senex* had said of him, and, in great Indignation, shewed him his Receipt for her Fortune: But that Receipt he had as a Thing of course; tho' *Senex* had no Money for it: And he pretended to be so much offended at his being suspected, that he would not see *Amicana*, or suffer her to come near him. And *Petula* being Dead, who was by much the kinder, be, tho' her own Uncle, would take no

Care of her, nor do any Thing for her. But, indeed, his Avarice, which daily increas'd, would not suffer him to part with a Penny whilst he liv'd ; and Shame would not let him see her.

So that *Amicana* being far from *Amicorus* and *Lucinda*, and having some anxious Thoughts which repell'd the Motives she had to be with them, she only repeated her Thanks for their repeated Invitation ; and told 'em, she thought it fitteſt for her to retire in Solitude to an obscure cheap Place, as moſt ſuiting her unhappy Circumstances ; and that ſhe muſt unavoidably deny her ſelf the Pleaſure of their moſt agreeable Converſation. They were both extreamly concernd at her Reſolution, to live in ſuch a very retir'd Way, and which wou'd deprive them of her deſirabla Company, and hide a moſt valuable Jewel from the World. And they both, as with one Voice, agreed to write, that they would not have their Requeſt deny'd, and beg'd of her to fix the Time. And to encourage her, they affuſed her, that *Benemer* wou'd, at their Requeſt, ſend his Coach to bring her to his Houſe, and thence to the Stage-Coach, which was but a few Miles off : And that they would ſend *Confido* (an ho-nest poor Gentleman, who was affiſted in his Suppoſt by *Amicorus*) to wait on her the reſt of the Way.

AMICANA,

AMICANA, after many revolving Thoughts what to conclude upon, at last, resolv'd to accept of their kind Invitation, and wrote, that she should wait on them ; at which they were very much pleas'd; and sent *Confido*, desiring him to let them know, by a Letter, what Day the Stage-Coach would arrive at their last Nights Lodging on the Road to *Carentam*: And, upon Notice, they took their own Coach, to conduct her from thence to their House. Their Meeting gave them mutual Joy ; and they all liv'd together in the most agreeable happy Manner imaginable.

WHEN *Amicana* had been about a Year with them, she had an Account from a Friend, that *Ursula*, being accus'd of her vile Plot, to injure an innocent Lady, she had joyn'd with *Falacia*, a wicked Wretch, who had before been guilty of a more cunning, and vile Contrivance, to ruin her entirely. And tho' *Amicana* had, 'till now, kept that Part of her Sufferings Secret from them, she now found it necessary to tell *Amicorus* and *Lucinda* of that horrid A&t, and to shew them some Papers in her own Vindication.

FALACIA was a poor Widow Gentlewoman, who liv'd near *Senex*, and for whom he had some Respect, and oft' admitted to his Table, and was otherwise kind to her : And she being in grave Years,

was one in whose Company he would allow *Amicana* to be, when out of his Sight.

WHEN she had been Married about two Years, and much talk was abroad about her Confinement, *Audatio*, a bold, vain, positive young Gentleman, in *Senex's* Neighbourhood, personable enough, but of no very great Estate ; he vainly imagin'd that *Amicana* cou'd not dislike him, and that it would be for her Interest to have Children ; and thought he might, by gaining her, advance his own Fortune, by Marrying her after *Senex's* Death ; and brib'd *Falacia* to assist him in his wicked Enterprize. He doubted not but *Senex* would believe himself to be the Father of her Children, and his Son *Junion*, having no Child, the Estate would descend to his Bastards : And vainly imagin'd that he should have the Management of the Estate, and the Enjoyment of all. And he thought *Senex's* Life could not be long, and that his imaginary Happiness was near at hand. He offered *Falacia* a good deal of ready Money, and promised more as Progress was made, and an ample Reward upon his final Success. On which Terms she readily agreed to serve his wicked Purposes ; and very cunningly she acted her Part, tho' in vain.

SHE had Opportunities enough to talk with *Amicana* alone ; and after preparing

her

her for it, offer'd her a Letter from *Audatio*, to which she shew'd a high Disdain, and, in due Time, a suitable Resentment. Tho' *Falacia* had us'd abundance of artful Arguments, to induce her to hate *Senex*, and to favour *Audatio*'s Suit to her. She aggravated *Senex*'s morose Temper, causeless Jealousy, and her intolerable Confinement, and cruel Usage : And highly commend-ed *Audatio*'s handsome Person, suitable Age, and good Qualities ; and told her, if she had no Children, *Senex* wou'd leave her in a starving Condition ; and that the only Way to avoid it, was to bring him an Heir.

THAT *Senex* now hated *Junion*, as much as once he lov'd him ; and he having no Children, if she brought *Senex* a Son, she might do what she pleas'd with him ; and that when he was Dead, *Audatio* would Marry her, and make her entirely Happy. And advis'd her not to delay doing what was so necessary for her Welfare. She said *Senex* would entrust her in her Hands ; and she having no Body with her but her Daughter *Belama*, a mear Child, she might enjoy her Lover undiscover'd at her House ; for that *Audatio* might come there alone, a back Way, unseen by any Body. But she did not mention his Name, 'till she had thus prepar'd the Way for it. And *Amicana* having arm'd herself with Patience to hear how surprizingly Wicked she was,

it gave her Hopes of Success ; and she thought, that *Amicana* wou'd not refuse to read *Audatio's Letter*, and so she now presented it to her. *Amicana* wonder'd that any Wretch cou'd so ungratefully attempt to betray one, by whom she was oft' fed, and otherwise assisted to Live, but took the Letter for her own Safety, imagining that *Falacia's Disappointment* wou'd put her upon a malicious Revenge for the just Resentment, which she shou'd soon shew her. Upon the first Appearance of which, she saw *Falacia* look'd upon her with an invidious Eye ; and upon observing some Change of Countenance, and fearing that if her Name was not mention'd in the Letter, she might make use of it to her Prejudice, by pretending to have found it ; and thinking, that if her Name was mention'd in it, it might be a Safeguard against any spightful Attempt of hers, durst not refuse to take it. Nor did she shew her Resentment in Words, 'till she had it in her Hands ; but she resolv'd if *Falacia's Name* was not in it, to burn it before her Face. But finding her Name in the Beginning of it, she, at that Time, read no farther, but tore it in several Pieces, and put it under her Feet, and then bid *Falacia* be gone that Moment ; and if she would not force her to expose her, not to come to the House any more : But she told her, the only Way for her to obtain

obtain any Favour, was to discover all *Audatio's* vile Attempts, and bid her make what Excuse she thought fit for her Absence.

SHE was far from having any Remorse, but went away in Anger, and studying a malicious Revenge. *Amicana* then pick'd up, and plac'd together the Pieces of *Audatio's* Letter, and read it, the better to know how to avoid any farther intended Mischief.

SHE saw he had us'd some Arguments to persuade her, that such an Incongruous, and forc'd Marriage, cou'd not, in Conscience, bind her, but that she was free if she pleas'd. Not that he would advise her to leave *Senex*, seeing he was not like to live many Years; and her leaving him would make a great Noise in the World, to her Prejudice: But he was not so careful of that as of his own Interest, in getting *Senex's* great Estate into his Hands, and securing it to his Children. And (he wrote) that he hop'd, by *Falacia's* Assistance, they might frequently enjoy one anothers Company to their mutual Delight and Satisfaction. And he thought he might satisfy his Appetite without loosing by it; or being so very chargeable to him, as keeping her wou'd amount to: And he imagin'd her Compliance was very certain, as being partly led to it, by the vain

vain Opinion which he had of himself, and partly forc'd to it by her intolerable Hardships.

WHAT a Villany, said *Amicana*, was here attempted, under the specious Pretence of Conscience? When, to say no more of it, the clandestine intruding an Impostor into the Family, to deprive the right Heirs of an Estate, is horrid Injustice; and must needs bring a heavy Curse with it, and entail a severe Judgment upon it.

AMICANA's Thoughts fluctuated a little, and she could not quickly resolve, whether to give *Senex* the Letter, or to hide it 'till she saw a little farther what might follow. She was afraid, that if *Falacia* was more provok'd, she, by the help of *Ursula*, might impose upon *Senex*'s jealous Credulity so far, as to make him believe that she had not receiv'd that Letter by *Falacia*'s Hand, but had shown it to *Senex* out of spight to *Falasia*; and might suggest to him, that she had refus'd to assist her in that Amour, and prevent her first discovering the Intrigue to him, and so gain Confidence in him; for she found *Falacia* capable of any Mischief, and so resolv'd to conceal the Letter.

FALACIA's Disappointment fate heavy upon her: She was like to loose *Senex*'s Benefaction, and could expect no more Money from *Audatio*, without some farther

farther Pretences of doing him effectual Service ; and she was resolv'd to ruin *Amicana* by a malicious Revenge. And in order to it, she told *Audatio*, that *Amicana* had very favourably receiv'd his Letter ; and tho' she could not persuade her to write an Answer, yet as she had made no Objection to his Addresses, he ought to believe that her Silence gave Consent. And she advis'd him to write again in a very pathetick Manner ; which he willingly did, and gave her the Letter to deliver to *Amicana* : And she pretended she had given it to her, and that she seemed very much affected by it ; but thought it too soon yet to write her Sentiments to him ; and *Falacia* told him, he ought not so soon to expect it, for that *Amicana* was Young and Timorous, and was very much discompos'd between Love and Fear. But she said, she doubted not but that another passionate Letter would touch her to the Quick, and enforce an Answer from her :

AUDATIO being fluster'd with vain Hopes, filled *Falacia's* Hand with Money, and gave her a third Letter for *Amicana*, to which *Falacia* devis'd and wrote an Answer, and gave it to him : And he knowing neither *Amicana's*, nor her Hand Writing, the Deceit easily pass'd upon him. The Contents were as follows.

SIR,

‘ S I R, tho’ I have taken some Time to
‘ confider of your Overtures of Love, yet
‘ I must own it has not been altogether for
‘ want of my Approbation; and having
‘ now vanquished my Fears, I must tell you,
‘ I am of Opinion, that the Case between
‘ us will not admit of any Dalliance, or De-
‘ lay. I hope you’ll not impute it to Weak-
‘ ness, or untimely Fondness, that I so
‘ soon discover the Thoughts of my Heart
‘ to you. I own I have, for some Time, had
‘ a secret Esteem for you, and am glad to
‘ find you have so great a Value for me.
‘ And as your moving and importunate Ex-
‘ pressions, leave me no room to doubt of
‘ your Love, and I hope, not of your Con-
‘ stancy; I freely declare I am of your Op-
‘ nion, that I am not in Conscience bound
‘ to *Senex Tygaris*; nor can he prnporly be
‘ said to be my Husband; and I think my
‘ self at liberty to make my own Choice;
‘ but think we ought to a&t in the private
‘ Manner, which you prudently propose.

‘ A N D if you’ll first give me under your
‘ Hand and Seal, a solemn Promise to Marry
‘ me publickly after *Senex’s* Death, I will,
‘ out of a Pretence to walk with *Falacia*,
‘ meet you at her House; but I desire you
‘ may be there some time before the ap-
‘ pointed Hour, and watch that no Body
‘ sees you, to prevent Discovery. The back
‘ Way

' Way is obscure enough, and I hope free
' from Observations.

' B U T I must now tell you, that when
' we are there, I shall require of you, in
' her Presence, to join with me in a sacred
' Vow, to become in reality, and irreversi-
' bly (tho' privately) Man and Wife. *Senex*
' is very desirous of an Heir, *Junior* having
' none; and I think I ought to Honour him
' for my own Sake, and by your Affistance
' to bring him one; and she appointed a
' Day for their Meeting, if ill Weather did
' not prevent it: And ended her Letter
with a kind Conclusion, and put *Amicana's*
Name to it.

SOME Folly, and some Impudence, said
Amicana, is always mix'd with villainous
Cunning; and such appears in this Letter,
as well as in *Audatio's*. She was resolved
to Eccho him in every Thing, to humour
him, and not to be out-done in Iniquity by
him; and so joyned with him in Opinion,
that to bring a spurious base Breed into a
Family, to deprive the right Heirs of an
Estate, is very Innocent; and that Adul-
tery, tho' against God's exprefs Commands,
is no Crime; and Religious Vows must give
a Sanction to the most horid Wickedness.

AUDATIO's other Letters were fill'd
with common Expressions of Love, and
Romantick Repetitions, pressing for an
Answer, not worth Notice. He very joy-
fully

fully receiv'd *Falacia's* Letter, imagining it to be *Amicana's* kind Answer to his insufferable Request, and gave *Falacia* a Letter to *Amicana*, full of his profound Sence of her Favours, and his most humble Acknowledgements of her condescending Goodness ; declaring his joyous Consent to her Demands, and pressing for a more speedy Interview, if possible.

FALACIA took his Letter, and had her next Contrivance ready, which was, to write another Letter in *Amicana's* Name, to tell him, that *Senex* being Indispos'd (as he really was) she cou'd not possibly stir from him at present, but if his Illness continu'd long, she would propose another Way to see him ; and that he might depend upon her being very steady in her Resolution to be his.

AUDATIO was very sorry for his Disappointment, but thought he could not blame any Body for it. But *Senex's* Indisposition continued for some Time, and he found that no Way was appointed for his meeting *Amicana*, which made him grow very impatient ; and he wrote to importune *Amicana* not to delay doing what she had promis'd to do.

FALACIA being willing to get Money at any rate, and at all Hazards ; and finding it unavoidably necessary to go on in her Projects, as far as she could ; she wrote another

an other Letter in *Amicana's* Name, to tell *Audatio*, that she was impatient for an Opportunity to meet him, and hop'd she had now found a safe Way to do it at Home; for she had complain'd of *Ursula's* Snoring (with whom she lay during *Senex's* Illness) and that her want of Rest, by sitting up with *Senex*, had made her too ill to be able to attend him any longer, and so had liberty to lie alone. And that if he would come with *Falacia* the Night following, at Eleven, to the Garden back Door (when all the Family would, on account of *Senex's* Illness, be in Bed) she could go out at a private Door (which was only bolted) into the Garden unheard, and let 'em into the House, by slipping the Bolt of the back Door, which would make no Noise: And, after they had done what she propos'd, they might dismiss *Falacia*; and if she could not conveniently take him to Bed, she wou'd pass part of the Night with him in a Summer-House in the Garden. This Letter he receiv'd with Joy, and handsomely rewarded *Falacia* for her assiduous Offices:

But now *Falacia* finding herself under a Difficulty how to come off, wrote another Letter as from *Amicana*, to tell *Audatio* that *Senex* being somewhat worse, had one to sit up with him, which would make her going out very hazardous; expresses a very

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great Concern for the unavoidable Delay, and promises, as soon as its possible, to be as good as her Word one Way or other.

B U T after *Senex* was recovered, *Falacia* was at a loss what Excuse to make for any farther Delay. And *Audatio* grew very uneasy, not knowing what to think of the Matter. And *Falacia* finding no Way to deceive him any longer, resolved to ruin *Amicana*, as she all along intended to do, when she could no longer conceal her own Deceit; and so formed the following Stratagem: Not without Hopes of extricating herself out of the present Difficulty, without having her base Fraud discovered. Villany is always fruitful in Ill, and one vile Act requires, and begets another to support it, 'till Iniquity is compleat. And *Falacia*, to prevent *Audatio*'s suspecting that she jilted him, tried this Trick, not doubting but it would take the Effect for which she designed it.

S H E believed *Senex* would wonder that he did not see her, and thought it high Time to send her Daughter *Belama* to excuse her not waiting on him, as being herself very much out of Order. And she chose to send her in the Morning, knowing that *Amicana* very rarely came down Stairs in a Morning; except she had some Body that *Senex* approved of, to walk with her in the Garden: Or, if she did come down, it would

would be undress'd, and then she always used the back Stairs; and she knew that *Ursula* was oft' moving up and down, and always used the great Stair-Cafe, for her Ease, as being Gross and Unactive.

FALACIA had told *Belama*, who was about Eleven Years Old, and not fit to enter too far into a Plot, that *Amicana* and she had some Difference, which made her not go to *Senex's* House, but that she had some Papers of hers, which she would make use of to make her Friends with her again; and then shewed her *Audatio's* three Letters, broke open, and folded up together; not telling her what they were, and she could not read written Hand. She told her that she must not give *Amicana*, nor any Body else the Papers, for that would spoil the Jest, which was intended as a Play to divert *Amicana*. But, that when she was coming away, if she went up Stairs, she should lay 'em in the Corner of the landing Place as she came down, if she could come down the great Stairs, and no Body see her; and if not, she bid her watch an Opportunity to lay 'em just as she gave 'em to her, at the Corner of the Foot of those Stairs: She thought it was a Thousand to One that *Amicana* should not take them up: And believ'd, if *Ursula* did not (as was most likely she should, as going oft' up to *Senex*) that whoever did find them, they

would give them to *Ursula* to take to her Lady. And she believ'd, that tho' *Ursula* would not be hir'd to intrigue for her, as not suiting her Interest, she would be glad of any Pretence to ruin her ; and that Way to make her own Advantage of *Senex* ; and she thought *Ursula* would, for that Reason, read, and give them to *Senex*. And she hop'd that he would readily believe *Amicana* drop'd the Letters, and she now hourly expected to hear of *Amicana's* Ruin.

B E L A M A was not admitted up Stairs, but after having an Answer to her Message, which *Ursula* gave her from the Stair Head, no Body being in the Hall, she left the Letters at the Corner of the Stair Foot, as directed by her Mother, and went Home. *Amicana*, by some strange and strong Impulse, she knew not why, immediately went down the great Stairs, saw the Letters lie, and took them up ; knew the Hand, imagin'd the Design, and went to her Dressing-Room to read them. She was shock'd and amaz'd at *Falacia*'s wicked Attempt ; but very joyful at her fortunate Escape. She hid the Letters, with the former, in a safe Place, 'till she could resolve what to do ; but she wrote upon a Paper that she folded them in, that those Letters might discover *Falacia*'s wicked Plot, and mentioned the Day, Hour and Place she found them in ; and that it was just after

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Falacia's Daughter went out of the House: And in considering what to do, she thought her discovering any thing of *Falacia*, or of the Letters, would but provoke her to attempt what she might not otherwise think of. She saw by those Letters of *Audatio's*, that *Falacia* must needs have wrote some Letters to him in her Name: And as it was plain by his Letters, that she could not deceive him any longer, except in pretending that *Amicana* had jilted them both, and by that Means provoke him, out of Revenge, for the Disappointment of his Lust, to expose her: And as she durst not trust him in any Respect, must be silent; and her only Fear was, that he might be Base, and Fool enough to accuse her, without showing her supposed Letters; and that it might, by *Ursula's* Affistance, pass upon *Senex* to her Ruin: That if that should happen, *Parcimont* was too Covetous to be at any Charge at Law to do her Right: And her noble Relations were Young, and not Rich, and wanted Interest at Court to benefit her any Way. But she hop'd Providence would protect her Innocence; and the only Thing by which she escaped, was *Audatio's* distrust of *Falacia*; which he had not done, but thro' her own misconduct; but she was in a terrible Fright, and so blunder'd in her Cunning. She now feared that *Amicana* had found the Letters, and saw that *Audatio*

was very-much disturb'd through distrust of her, or of *Amicana*, and knew not what to do, to cast the Odium off herself, and fix it upon her.

SENEX was recovered, and no Obstacle appeared to prevent what *Audatio*, with the utmost Impatience, expected and waited for; and thinking to turn his now distrustful Thoughts from her, she violently railed at *Amicana*, and told him she now found she was a Jilt, and deserved to be exposed; and that her Ruin was the only Way left for him to satisfy his Desires; and that if he would let her take *Amicana's* Letters Home to Copy, she would soon bring it about.

It appears that he was base enough to have gained his Ends any Way, but was unwilling to expose himself: Not that he was one who cared what the World said of him; but he thought that making *Amicana* hate him, was not the Way to gain her, when turned out of Doors; and as he could not think *Falacia* would show *Senex* Copies of her own Hand Writing, which must make her seem more concern'd in the Intrigue than needed, it gave him some Umbrage, that she was the Jilt, and Writer of those Letters; and meant to burn the Originals, to prevent his discovering the Cheat (as he owned when the Plot was fully discovered) and the Answer he thought fit to

to give her was, That he was going out in haste on Busines, and would consider of her Proposal. At which she seemed confounded, and with more Heat, than Prudence, told him, there was no Time left for Delay ; and that if he did not immediately comply with her Advice, he would suffer for it. This made him imagine she had already done something that might expose him ; which, indeed, she had done, if his Letters had fallen into such Hands as she expected. But she thought it now too certain, that *Amicana* had the Letters, no Noise being made about them ; and as she every Day expected to be expos'd, she was taking rash Measures to prevent it. *Audatio* went out, and left her to go Home ; but his only Busines was to study what to do in the Affair. And he was almost confirmed in his Opinion, that *Falacia* wrote those Letters, which she pretended she had from *Amicana* ; and that she not being distrusted by her, had Admittance to her Chamber, and might pretend she found his Letters there, and might that Way bring herself off by exposing him and *Amicana* ; and in order to it, would shew his Letters to *Senex*, as if found in *Amicana's* Chamber : Which she would certainly have done, being now driven to an Extremity, if she had got her own Letters from *Audatio*.

HE was therefore not unwilling that *Amicana* should be expos'd, imagining it the only Way now to have her fall into his Hands ; and he wish'd to have her for a while, tho' not for ever, without the Estate ; but he was not willing to expose himself, if he cou'd avoid it : And he thought the best Way to prevent it, was to keep the Letters which *Falacia* gave him as *Amicana's* ; and he wish'd the Letters might prove to be hers. But be that so, or not, he wou'd, if possible, avoid *Amicana's* thinking he had any Hand in exposing her : And having resolv'd what to do to excuse himself, he wrote to *Senex*, that he had Reason to believe, that *Falacia*, whose great Benefactor he had long been, must needs be a very base Woman ; for that she had, for some Time past, endeavour'd to insinuate to him, that his Lady was in Love with him, and offer'd to be a Confidant in the Intrigue ; and propos'd how it might be securely carry'd on at her House, she having the Liberty to have her there as oft' as she pleas'd. (Which was false) He beg'd leave to assure him, that he had a better Opinion of his Lady, and never had any Design to do him Injustice ; but own'd that he had at *Falacia's* repeated Solicitations, wrote some Letters, and directed them to *Amicana*, but with no other View, than to discover how far *Falacia* would carry on her base Design : And said,

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he had never seen *Amicana's*, or *Falacia's* Hand-Writing, but had Reason to believe the inclos'd Letters were of *Falacia's* Writing; and therefore sent them to him, that he might see how ungrateful she was; and also, that it might prevent any Scandal, which he believ'd *Falacia*, out of some Peak, design'd, in Revenge, to asperse *Amicana* with.

He might vainly imagine, that *Amicana* would perceive, that he believing her Innocent, would think it more proper for him to send the Letters to *Senex* than to her; and take it as meant in her Vindication, as well as his own: And supposing that *Falacia* would still have some Way to ruin her, that she would still think him her Friend, and be the easier brought to his Lure.

FALACIA, not getting her Letters out of *Audatio's* Hands, suspected his distrust, and expecting every Moment when his Letters, being in *Amicana's* Hands (as she now believed them to be) should be made use of to expose and condemn her: Thought it not Time to delay a Moment, to try to turn the Tables upon *Amicana*, which she believ'd *Audatio* would be glad of, and so conceal her Letters. On this Presumption, she wrote to *Senex*, that the true Reason why she had not been to wait on him, was not any real Indisposition, but because

because she could not comply with the wicked Designs of his unworthy Lady. That she had some Time since, made some shew of her being in Love with *Audatio*, and had afterwards plainly owned it to her, and beged of her to try to persuade him to be in Love with her, and to invite him to meet her at her House ; but not to let *Audatio* know that it was her Desire, but only that she believ'd she could prevail with her to meet him ; and that he must write to her to desire it ; and that she resolv'd to try how base *Amicana* would be, but not to let her base Design take Effect; but indeed, to prevent her using any other Way to effect it, and to give him a faithful Account of it, out of Respect and Gratitude for his Favours to her : And, for that End, she had convey'd several Letters and Answers from one to the other. That the enclosed were Copies of her Letters to him, which being in Covers, she had opened and copy'd, and inclos'd again in the same Covers, after cutting off the broken Part (but these were Copies of her own forged Letters, which *Falacia* had kept and fresh wrote out) and she wrote, that if he would have *Amicana*'s Chamber well searched , they would find *Audatio*'s Letters to her (not doubting now but she had found them) which would make what she had wrote, appear to be true ; but she told him she presum'd

presum'd he would not think fit to say any Thing to *Audatio* about it: For that if he thought fit to part with *Amicana*, she knowing her Guilt, it might be done without making such a Noise, as it would occasion by taking such publick Notice of it. *Falacia* sent her Letter by *Belama*, who happened to bring it just as *Senex* had read *Audatio's* Letter. He saw plainly that the Letters which he had inclosed were not *Amicana's* Hand, but had seen so much of *Falacia's* Writing, as to believe them to be hers; and which he was confirmed in by comparing them with the Letter she now sent, and the inclosed Copies. *Amicana* being present, desired *Belama* might be call'd into the Room, and she allow'd to ask her some Questions, which was readily granted; and she looking pleasantly upon her, asked how her Mother did; and smiling, said, Miss, Was not your Mother angry with you for droping some Papers at the Stairs Foot, when you were last here, which you should have given me? Don't be afraid Child, says she, for if your Mother does not know it, I won't tell her. I humbly thank your Ladyship, says *Belama*; but, indeed, my Mother said she was acting a Play to divert you, and make you laugh and be merry; and bid me leave the Papers there, or upon the Stairs; and said, they who found them would have good Luck.

Luck. Very well said, Child, said *Amicana*, do you know those Papers when you see them? Yes, Madam, says she, very well. Then I will show you them, says *Amicana*, and bringing them with other Papers to her, asked by what Marks she knew them: She said, there was Three of them one in another, and a Mark (which was a particular flourish) on the outside of each, which she knew. *Amicana* shew'd her three of *Lucinda's*, and three other Letters, which she purposely brought with them, and ask'd if any of those Letters were them: She said no. Then shewing her *Audatio's* three Letters; she readily said, those are the Papers, Madam, which I brought, I know them by the fine Flower upon them. Well, Child, says she, since we must act a Play, you must go out of the Room a little, and be call'd in again for an Answer to your Mother's Letter, which you now brought.

WHEN she was gone, *Senex* was in an extraordinary good Humour with *Amicana*, and shew'd it in a very kind and obliging Manner, and told her, that he was not only fully satisfied of her Innocence, but extreamly pleased, that she had withstood such a combin'd Temptation; and shou'd, for the future, be very easy, and free from all distrust of her Virtue.

SHE heartily thank'd him, and assur'd him of her Fidelity, and then desir'd him to consider what Answer to make, to *Audatio's* and *Falacia's Letters*.

HE told her, that altho' neither of them had been much Sufferers in reality ; yet, as she had sensibly suffered very much, by her just Fears of the Consequence of such wicked Attempts and Practices, he would leave it to her to answer as she pleas'd.

SHE humbly thank'd him ; and said, She thought that if Law could inflict any Punishment on such base Designs, yet it might occasion Misreports, by which Innocence might be a Sufferer : And that to exasperate the Forgers of such Falsities, might provoke 'em to invent more Lies, by way of Excuse for themselves, and out of Revenge to her ; but she did not say this as her own Sence of the Case, for she had but little Experience in Affairs, and knew but little of Politicks. But she had lately read an Author which he esteem'd, who had said as much, and who was of Opinion, that no Rank could be safe from the false and malicious Aspersions of evil Tongues, especially when it was made necessary for them to cast an Odium off themselves. Or when irritated, tho' but by common Justice, to base Spight, and unjust Revenge. And since she apprehended by what he had said, that he did not think it necessary to prosecute them at

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Law : She was of the above said Author's Opinion, that a silent Contempt, or to make a short and private Jest of their Folly, was the best Answer, in such Cases. And she ask'd him, if he did not think the fittest Answer to *Audatio*'s Letter, was to tell the Messenger who brought it, that it needed no Answer ; which would be Satyr enough upon his pretended Innocence. And in Answer to *Falacia*'s Letter, to tell *Belama*, that he had compar'd her Mother's Copies with the Originals, and was very well satisfy'd, that they were both of one Hand Writing.

He approv'd of what she had advised, and the Messengers were call'd, and answer'd accordingly. *Falacia* was, no doubt, shock'd at her Disappointment, as it appears she was, but had Spirit enough to hide it from *Belama*, and only told her, she must keep on the Play a little longer ; and she had Assurance and Cunning enough to go instantly to *Audatio*, who, she was afraid, wou'd Reproach and Expose her ; and to tell him, she wonder'd how he cou'd be so weak, as to disappoint all his Hopes, and so base as to ruin her (who had served him faithfully) by sending her Letters to *Senex*. He told her, her owning them to be her Letters, acquitted him of Blame, and shewed she deserved to be so used, and worse. *Falacia* told him, that tho' the Letters

Letters were of her Writing, it was at Amicana's earnest Request; she telling her, that she knew not how to write Answers to such Letters: But she had approved of them, and set her Hand to them; and that he could not but see, that the Letters, and the Subscription were of two different Hands. That her only Fault, if any, was in being too hasty, in thinking *Amicana* a Jilt; but that she had still a Way left, to make her shew a real Complyance, or to ruin her, as she deserved, if she was a Jilt.

AUDATIO began to think he remembered something of such a Difference in the Writing, as she had told him of; and now thought himself in the Fault, and beg'd her Pardon; and to make her amends, and to engage her farther in his Service, gives her more Money. And thus she artfully prevented his exposing her, and, in Part, supply'd the loss of *Senex*'s present Favours, and had still some vain Hopes left to regain them.

H B told her, that the Method he took to send those Letters, could not offend *Amicana*, and therefore he hoped she might still succeed one Way or other. She told him she would endeavour it, and must loose no Time; so took leave, and went Home. And now she told *Belama*, that she must take a Letter to *Ursula*, but let no Body know of it, nor stay to hear it read, but desire her to read it at her Leisure, as *Be-*

lama own'd; and that, as the Hall Door was frequently open, she must watch an Opportunity to go in softly; and giving her some Papers, bid her not drop them where she had done the last, but put them in a Hole, which was at the side of the Stair Foot; and if any Body should chance to see her, she must pretend she was leaving her Clogs there: But with all this Precaution, Fortune so favoured the Innocent, that she was accidentally seen putting Papers far in under the Stairs, by *Penga*, a Maid Servant; and as *Amicana* was a good Mistress, and beloved by all the Servants; and as they had over-heard something of *Falacia*'s odious Attempts, *Penga* would not take the Pretence of *Belama*'s putting her Clogs there for an Excuse: She then said, it was to make a Play. *Penga* told her she had no Business there, but to do some Mischief. *Senex* being very opportunely at the Stair Head, call'd to know what was the Matter, and being told, came down Stairs; and *Amicana*, who heard a Noise from within the Room, followed him, and hearing what *Penga* said, told *Belama*, her Mother carry'd the Jest too far; but if those Papers were design'd for her, bid her take them out and give them to her. *Belama* did so, and in stooping to get them out, rais'd the Letter up which she had put in her Bosom. *Amicana* seeing it, took it out, and shew'd *Senex* that

that it was for *Ursula*; and looking at the Papers, found them to be some Riddles in Verse, &c. and some Questions and Answers in cross Purposes, and other childish Verses. *Amicana* told *Belama*, that was Child's Play indeed, and bid her go Home, and tell her Mother, she must never send her to play there any more. *Senex* seeing, and approving of what *Amicana* did, only looked on and said nothing. She then bid *Penga* call *Ursula*, and go to her Business. She gave *Ursula* the Letter, and bid her look into it, and if it concerned *Senex*, or her, to tell them so: She found, upon her first looking into it, that it did relate to them, and found her self obliged to give it to them; (what use she'd have made of it, had she had it privately, is hard to say.) *Amicana* then looked into it, and found there was nothing in it that concerned *Ursula*, but that she was desired to tell them what was in the Letter, which they had now in their Hands to read; and so she gave it to *Senex* and desir'd him to read it. He found, at first Sight, that *Falacia* was telling *Ursula* at large what she knew but little of, which he was glad was prevented; for tho' he used to be open in letting *Ursula* know many Things, yet he now took a Humour to have no Body know more of his Affairs than what could not be avoided.

S E N E X and *Amicana* went into the Parlour, where reading the whole Letter, they found that *Falacia* had accus'd *Amicana* to *Ursula*, and beg'd of her to set the Matter in a true Light to *Senex*, or she should be undeservedly ruin'd. And not doubting but *Belama* would have left the Papers unseen, which she gave her to put in the Hole that instant ; she had the Assurance to say, that tho' *Amicana* had, by frightening her Child, made her say what she pleas'd, she brought those Letters out of her own Chamber, which she forc'd *Bolama* to say she drop'd at the Stair Foot. But that she had indeed, bid *Belama* at that Time, so long since (tho' it was but that Morning that she gave them to her) put some innocent Verses into a Hole under the Stairs, if she could not privately give them to *Amicana* to divert her, which made the Child's Mistake : But those Papers will still be found there, as, indeed, they were as she was now putting them there) and tho' she knew not *Amicana*'s Hand, yet she had the Front to say, that the Letters she wrote were done at her urgent Request, and were sign'd by her ; and that she would not have wrote them, but with intent to discover, and prevent her Intrigue. There were many Things above-mention'd which concur'd to shew the Falsity of those bold Affertions ; but for all that, *Senex* was half way gone into a fit of Jealousy,

lousy, 'till *Amicana*, by mentioning the Falsities in her Letter, and repeating many Things, which had not, at that instant, occurred to his Memory, turned the Scale: And then she told him, she would demonstrate to him, that what *Falacia* had now wrote was impossible to be true; and fetching the Papers that came before, she desired him to remember, that the last Time that *Falacia* was there, was on his Birth-Day, which was on one of the most noted Holy-Days in all the Year. That she herself, on account of his Illness, had not been out of Doors since that Day, except to Church the last Sunday, or with *Ursula* in the Garden; and then shew'd him, that *Audatio*'s first Letter, which she tore, was dated that very Holy-day Morning, before *Falacia* came to Dinner; and that the other Letters which *Balam* (unfrighted) had owned to have left at the Stair-Foot, were of different Dates, but all since that Holy-day. And that *Falacia*'s forged Answers were all dated since that Time; and answer'd to the severel Dates of *Audatio*'s Letters: And that the subscribing her Name was vastly different from her Hand, and was the very same as the Letters, only wrote in a larger Character. And as he was sure she had never seen *Falacia* since that Holy-day, he must needs justify her Innocence, and pity her Misfortunes; and that

that she could not doubt but he was intirely satisfy'd.

He readily own'd he was so, but told her, that he could not see that any Thing but Punishing, or Exposing, cou'd restrain *Falacia's* farther malicious Attempts. She desired he would do just as he pleased in it: But she said, she believ'd that *Audatio* and *Falacia*, would now be so enraged with one another, as to expose both, and that would make the Matter a publick Talk. But that, after having so many repeated Testimonies of their vile Practices, she thought herself out of Danger of being aspersed by them; and desired that he would inform himself what could be done by Course of Justice, and then do as he thought fit. But that he might, in the mean Time, send what Message he pleas'd to *Falacia*, to intimidate her from farther Attempts of Mischief. Which yet, if her Folly were not greater than her Cunning, or that she was not blinded by vengeful Malice, she would never venture at any more. She did not entirely speak her own Sentiments, but rather spoke in Compliiance with *Senex's* Humour. He set himself to think about it, and grew so Capricious, that he could not resolve upon any Thing. He could prove nothing against *Audatio*, without *Falacia's* Evidence, which he would not make use of. And here was only an Attempt without Effect, and as yet

yet Private, and not his Part to publish it ; so that he could have no proper Action against *Audatio*. *Falacia* had been guilty of Forgery, but no such Damage was sustain'd by it, as the Law cou'd take much Cognizance of. He believ'd *Audatio* had given *Falacia* Money, and might prosecute her for Fraud, but he would not assist him in it, by giving him *Falacia*'s counterfeit Letters ; nor would now do any Thing that should make the Case publick. Sometimes he would send *Ursula* to *Falacia*, but could not resolve upon it, nor what she shou'd say if she went. And growing Peevish with these revolving Thoughts, he grew half Jealous again ; tho' he could not give one Reason for the least Suspicion. But whilst he was fretting and teasing both himself and *Amicana*, *Belama* brought a Letter from *Falacia*, who was now throughly frighted by finding all her Plots abortive, and discover'd ; and in fear of being exposed, and prosecuted on both Sides, as knowing her self guilty of Forgery and Fraud ; and not knowing how little Cognizance the Law could take in her Case. The Letter was directed to *Amicana*, as the Person most injur'd and offended, but yet on whose Goodness to Pardon, she could most rely on. *Amicana* would not open the Letter, but she desir'd *Senex* to do with it as he pleas'd : His half jealous Humour made him

him have the Curiosity to open it, and found it was a full Confession of all *Falacia's* Guilt. But to palliate her Crimes, she said, that her Poverty had forc'd her to comply with *Audatio's* importunate Solicitations; but own'd that she deserv'd no Favour, and only beg'd for Mercy. And to induce *Amicana* to think her Repentance sincere, she had wrote a sort of Journal, of every Particular of her Designs and Stratagems; and *Belama* told all the Particulars in what she had been employ'd; so that now *Amicana* had almost the whole Plot. *Amicana* told *Belama*, it was plain she was innocent, and advis'd her always to be so, and gave her some pretty Presents to encourage her to be Honest and Virtuous; and she bid her tell her Mother, that she freely forgave her as a Christian, and should be ready to render her Good for Evil: But that she had made it very improper for her ever to come to *Senex's* House whilst she liv'd.

S E N E X was now rous'd out of all his Diffidence, and once more entirely satisfy'd with *Amicana's* strict Virtue and Fidelity; and shew'd so much Compassion for *Falacia*, as to tell *Belama* he was sorry her Mother had been so unworthy a Woman, that he could not see her: But had so much Charity for her, for former Acquaintance sake, that since she had confess'd her Fault, he might afford her some Relief. He had, indeed,

indeed, been kind to her, tho' the rest of World, except *Ursula*, saw but little of his Generosity, or Hospitality.

BUT now the Hipocrite's Fears of *Senex* and *Amicana*'s Resentment were over ; and she finding that no Noise wou'd be made from thence ; she contriv'd once more to deceive *Audatio*, to prevent his Revenge, if not to keep herself his Pensioner ; and went to him and told him, she was very sorry she had suspected *Amicana* ; for, indeed, she was very sincere, and endeavoured to meet him in the Garden, as she promis'd ; and went into the Garden one Night to try if she might meet him undiscover'd, before she wou'd venture to appoint him a Time to come to her there : And that she was by Accident discover'd and secur'd, tho' she pretended to know nothing of her being out ; and said, she must needs walk in her Sleep, and tho' no Body was found about the House, she was suspected and watched ; and that she herself being suspected, had private Notice given her not to go to *Senex*'s House ; and which she had not done for some Time past, which made her so much in the Dark in his Affairs. And that she had lost *Senex*'s Favour by her Endeavours to serve him ; which ought to make him very kind to her, to make up her Loss. She told him, *Senex*'s first Suspicion would have been easily remov'd ;

but

but now his own Misconduct had destroy'd all his Hopes, whilst *Senex* liv'd : But that she durst engage, that *Amicana* shou'd be his own, if he pleas'd, when ever she was at Liberty so to be. She told him she found that *Senex* and *Amicana* were inclinable to keep what had past Secret, and that it would be his best Policy to do so too. He was weak enough to believe all she said was true, and thought her Advice was right; and to keep her in his Interest, was very kind to her. But however strong his Passion for *Amicana* might be, it was not strictly Virtuous Love ; and therefore I shall not determine whether he was in hopes *Senex* might some how banish all Jealousy, and die in Love with, and in a good Opinion of, *Amicana*, and so leave her Rich ; or whether, if she were left Poor, he might not think he might satisfy his Lust without Marriage. But in the Time *Senex* liv'd after this, which was Three Years, he did not live so chaste a Life, as a virtuous Lover wou'd have done , and, perhaps, that was the Reason why he did not Marry all that Time ; or he might not find a suitable Fortune that he could like.

BUT, however that was, some Time after *Senex*'s Death (*Falacia* having pretended that there was a Quarrel between *Amicana* and her, on another Account, and that she could not have her Ear.) And *Audatio* finding

finding he cou'd have no farther Assistance from *Falacia*, went to make *Amicana* a Visit, which she wou'd by no means receive. He then sent her a Letter, which she returned unopen'd, which enrag'd him so, that he sent a Gentleman to complain, and, if need were, to tell her she was a Jilt, and that he would expose her. Upon this Message, she found herself oblig'd to shew the Gentleman *Falacia's* Letter of Confession of her horrid Crimes; which she desir'd him to tell *Audatio*, as by which he would see how egregiously he had been impos'd on by *Falacia*: And she told the Gentleman as this Discovery wou'd naturally lead *Audatio* to tell him by what Artifice *Falacia* had deceiv'd him, after her Confession of her Crime; she had the Curiosity to desire to know it, and said, he might sometime, or other, come that Way, and oblige her by telling how she deceiv'd him.

THIS Gentleman knew *Falacia's* Hand-Writing (tho' *Audatio* did not) and told *Amicana*, he was very well satisfy'd of *Falacia's* Treachery; and wou'd undecive *Audatio*, and convince him of her horrid Baseness.

AFTER this, the Gentleman wou'd have spoke in *Audatio's* Favour, recommending him for a Husband; but she desir'd him to spare his Pains, telling him, that such a Proposal was impossible for her to

L receive;

receive ; and that she wou'd never see, or receive a Line from him whilst she liv'd.

THE Gentleman, however, was so respectful to her, as to come to tell her, that *Falacia's* last Stratagem was the forg'd Pretence of *Amicana's* going in the Night into the Garden, &c. as before-mentioned, and told her *Falacia's* whole Management of *Audatio* ; so that now she had the whole Story from both Hands : And the Gentleman told her, how much enrag'd *Audatio* was with *Falacia*, and wou'd Expose her, and ruin her too, if possible. But *Amicana* wou'd not assist him in that, by giving him *Falacia's* Letters in Evidence against her, as *Audatio* had desir'd : But *Falacia* being at that Time expos'd, and *Ursula* afterwards accus'd of Infidelity, as is mention'd in Page 75, occasion'd their agreeing after *Senex* Death, to asperse *Amicana*; tho' without all Foundation, and contrary to apparent Truth. *Amicana* ask'd *Amicorus* and *Lucinda's* Pardon, for tyring their Patience with so long a Detail of *Falacia's* wicked Projects ; but told them, she wou'd another Time tell them of another Attempt upon her Virtue.

THEY told her, they own'd they cou'd not hear her Story without some Pain for her ; tho' her Danger on that Account was over ; but in all other Respects, it was a very entertaining Story, and they thank'd her

her for the Pains she had been at in telling it them, and in shewing them *Audatio's* and *Falacia's Letters, &c.* and then said, they should be very glad to hear her other Story, when she pleas'd to favour them with it. And they were impatient 'till the next vacant Hour came to hear it ; and which they found opportunely happen the next Day.

But *Amicana* told them, they would find themselves mistaken in their Expectation, for there was nothing Curious, or Diverting in her Story ; and that the best of it was, that it was very short, and wou'd soon be told : And then she began to tell them, that when she was at *Santon Wells*, which, tho' not a Place of Resort for Pleasure, but only for the necessary Use of the Waters : Yet, a Month after her Arrival there, young Count — came thither , who had been entertain'd at *Senex's House*. He was a very personable Gentleman , a general Lover , and was not dislik'd by the young Ladies ; which made him think himself sure of his Game, wherever he set his Toils. And because it was not *Amicana's Way* to frown upon any one, but to pay every Body a due Respect, he flatter'd himself, that she look'd upon him with a very favourable Aspect ; and considering her unavoidable Dislike of *Senex*, and that she must needs have an Aversion to Confinement. And that her forc'd Restraint wou'd naturally make

her willingly chuse Liberty, and use Means to show her Resentment; on these Accounts he thought she would be easily gain'd, and he had for some Time been seeking for Opportunities to try to gain his Point.

WHEN she went to the Wells it was kept secret, and only given out that she was gone to stay a while at her Uncle *Parsimont*'s, who came for her to conduct her with her Aunt to the Wells.

WHEN the Count found her stay was longer than he imagin'd, he made a Pretence to go a Sporting on that side of the Country, where *Parsimont* liv'd, imagining that *Amicana* wou'd have more Liberty there than at Home; but there he found they were gone to the Wells. He then pretended some Indisposition, for which his Physician had advis'd him to use those Waters. But *Santon* not being a Place of Resort, he was there Incognito by the Name of *Volanto*; and he thought it wou'd best suit his Purpose to be Incognito; and partly for that Reason, as it best suited *Parsimont*'s penurious Temper, he, and his Company were there Incognito too. *Parsimont* had sent Home his own Servant *Dilley* to return at the Time of their leaving the Well's: And *Amicana*'s Servant *Rodon* did not wear his Livery whilst there: And as she was only known as *Parsimont*'s Niece, and *Ursula* as a Friend. And as *Amicana* seldom

seldom went to the Wells, *Volanto*, had for some Time in vain, enquir'd for Lady *Tygaris*. She had none but travelling Cloths there, and those grave enough for a Woman of Fifty (nor a Riding-Habit made of an airy Mode, as gay young Ladies were) so that he no Way discover'd her. And at Church she sat so obscure, that he had not perceiv'd her there, and began to think he was misinform'd, and was going to leave the Place. But before he took Horse, he went Booted to the Wells ; and *Amicana* being there (with *Ursula* and *Affabella*, a Gentlewoman that lodg'd in the same House) he cast his Eyes upon her, and went to make her his Compliments. At which *Affabella* and *Ursula* kept at some Distance, and went and sat down, leaving them to walk together. He told her, had he known she had been at *Santon*, he would have done himself the Honour to wait on her ; and desir'd to know where she lodg'd. She answer'd, that she had not asked the People's Names, nor the Name of the Street (which was true, tho' she knew both.) He did not take this as a Refusal of his Visit ; but would not too far pass the Rules of Civility ; and so ask'd no more about it, thinking he should easily find it out.

He perceived that she was there in Incognito, and not known to be Lady *Tygaris*, and thought it would best suit his Purpose not

to disover her. And he told her, that imagining her to be there Incognito, he believed she would not have him take notice who she was: And he thought it proper to tell her he was there Incognito too. He did not (rash as he was) think fit to tell her at first Sight, that he had persued her thither, with the Pangs of a dying Lover. But was so much in haste to have her know (in a Way not so direct) how much he adored her, that after two or three Turns in a Walk, he told her of a new Copy of Verses, which were much admired; and drawing them out of his Pocket, beg'd she would divert herself by reading them at Home. She not apprehending any Design, thought she could not, in good Manners, refuse a publick Thing, and so received them. And, it seems, as if he feared, that if she should look into them whilst he was there, she might think herself obliged to return them immediately upon first sight of the Contents, and not read them through: For the Moment she took them from his Hand, he went off. She instantly looked into them, intending to divert *Affabella* with them. But upon the first View, found it was not to be done. For tho' he was not Poet good enough to make them, they were Love Verses alter'd so as to be in a very particular Manner addressed to her.

SHE was unwilling to stay at the Wells any longer, fearing *Volanto* might return, and desir'd *Affabella* wou'd go Home with her. She then told her Uncle and Aunt what had happen'd at the Wells, and show'd them *Volanto's* Verses; and told 'em she would not stir out of Doors whilst she staid at *Santon*; and desir'd, if *Volanto* came to visit her, he might not be admitted: And as for the rest, she found he would not divulge who she was; so that they might be easy on that Account. *Parsimont* and *Petula* were so little seen, or known in *Santon*, that *Volanto* could not any way hear of them all that Day. However, he resolv'd not to lave *Santon*, 'till he had found some Opportunity to push on his amorous Purpose. And next Morning seeing *Affabella* at the Wells, and *Amicana* not there, he told *Affabella*, he thought himself oblig'd to wait on the young Lady, who was with her there the Morning before; but not knowing where she lodg'd, desir'd her to tell him. *Amicana* had forgot, or thought it improper to tell *Affabella* any thing of *Volanto*; and she believing nothing was meant but a civil Respect, very readily told him where it was, and upon his asking the Question, said she lodg'd in the same House. He then ask'd how the Lady did; and she answer'd, she believ'd she was very well; but that she came but seldom to the Wells. He imagin'd

gin'd he knew the Reason why she did not, and that it was not to please her own Inclinations, that she was so little in Publick: And in the Afternoon he went to wait on her, but was denied Admittance, pretending that she, as well as her Aunt, was Indisposed.

VOLANTO did not take this to be her own Answer, but flatter'd himself, that her unreasonable Confinement would make her so much the more desirous of Liberty (tho' the Liberty he meant, was, in reality, a more disconsolate, as well as disreputable Confinement.)

HE had prepar'd a Letter to *Amicana*, which he imagined *Affabella* would not refuse to give her, imagining she knew not of her being Married; and seeing her, and not *Amicana* at the Wells, he began to talk with her about his Love for *Amicana*; and obscur'd, and colour'd his base Design by saying, that he had a very considerable Estate; and that no reasonable Objection could be made to his Proposals: But he said, that *Amicana*'s foolish, covetous Uncle, and ambitious Aunt, would never let her be Married to any Body, and would be her Ruin, by their not accepting of any reasonable Offers whatever. And he desired *Affabella* would do him the Favour to give *Amicana* a Letter privately from him. But *Affabella*, tho' not knowing then,

then, that *Amicana* was Married, yet very prudently answer'd, That as he was an utter Stranger to her, she wonder'd how he could expect any such Office from her ; and desired to be excused. He farther press'd her to do it, but in vain, for she very peremptorily refused it, and went from him ; for which she had *Amicana*'s hearty Thanks.

His next Device was to hire a Fruit-Woman to find an Opportunity to give her his Letter, unseen by any Body ; which she undertook to do, and went immediately to offer them Fruit to buy ; and some Fruit she sold them : But not finding an Opportunity to speak to *Amicana*, privately she (whilst they were chusing Fruit and bargaining for it) slip'd the Letter into a Book, which she saw *Amicana* had just laid out of her Hand. As soon as she was gone, *Amicana* going to read again, saw the Letter, and desir'd the Woman might be call'd back ; but she had purposely hid her self, and could not be found : But being sent for by *Amicana* in the Evening, she came, imagining the Letter had been favourably received, and that she should have an Answer to give to *Volanto* ; but finding herself mistaken, she deny'd the leaving the Letter, or knowing any Thing of it, and refused to take it back : So that as they could but guess, and not be certain that the Letter

ter came from *Volanto*, as not knowing his Hand, it was not thought proper to send it to him. For, indeed, he might have denied that it was his Letter, and have made a Noise about it, to serve his own Purpose, and by which *Amicana* must have been exposed. And *Parsimont* and *Petula* were of *Amicana's* Opinion, that since the Letter could not be sent back, they had better keep it as a Guard, than destroy it. They had opened it, and found no proper Name to it, but it was subscribed by the fictitious Name of *Constantio*. He had made use of a great many moving, dying, passionate Declarations of Love, and Vows, and Protestations of Constancy ; and said, all the World pittied her unnatural and miserable Confinement, and beged she would let him have the Honour of being her happy Deliverer ; and that his whole Estate shou'd be at her Service. He proposed their living at *Carentam* in private, 'till *Senex's* Death, and that then he would Marry her : And he told her he had a Calash within call, which waited her Commands to carry her to *Carentam*, where he would so order Things that she should not be discovered.

THIS Letter made them think of leaving *Santon* sooner than they intended, to prevent his attempting to cart off *Amicana* by force. But as *Petula's* Prescriptions were to drink the Waters, in small Quantities,

for

for two Months, allowing their disuse at some Intervals, for taking alterative and corroborating Medicines, they ventured to stay the full Time.

AND now it must needs be, that *Volanto* did not think what the Fruit-Woman must have told him, was *Amicana's* own Act; but imagined that the Letter was first seen by some Body else; and he was full of vain Hopes, that she both liked him, and his Proposals; for 'ere they went away, he had (for want of a better Contrivance) sent two Letters inclosed to some Friend at *Carentam*, to be sent to *Amicana* by the Post, as from thence: And they were directed by two different Hands; the last of them by a Woman's Hand, and were filled with repeated Compliments of a wretched Lover's dying Pangs, and begging Relief; and still commisserating her unhappy State, and offering the same Affistance for her Release.

AND as he had no Answer, he must either imagine that all his Letters fell into wrong Hands; and that *Amicana* would shew a willing Compliance, if an Opportunity were offered her, or else he must have resolv'd to carry her off by Force: For it appears that he must have had all her Motions watched; which were very few, for she had left off going to Church, or the Wells, or any where else, except to walk sometimes

sometimes in the Garden, or the nearest side of a Close joyning to the Garden, but was never alone ; and the Close was set round with such a thick Hedge, that they could not well be seen. However he had, (as they were afterwards told) been several Times with a Gun, in some Grounds next to the Close, pretending to shoot : And a few Days before *Amicana*, &c. went away. When she and *Ursula* were walking in the Close, they saw *Volanto* get over the Gate into the Close, with his Gun in his Hand (and heard something like a Coach come down a Lane near the Close) when they instantly step'd into the Garden, and went as fast as they could into the House. And sending *Rodon*, her Man Servant, to see what was in the Lane, he found it was a Calash, and proved to be *Volanto*'s Calash. What he would have done after this Disappointment, they knew not. But to prevent his making any forcible Attempt upon the Road, they gave out, that they were going to visit some Friends at *Gradon*, which was a Place of great Resort ; a Days Journey from *Santon*, and directly contrary to their Road Home. And early in the Morning, a Day sooner than they gave out they should go, they went out of Town the Way to *Gradon*, and then turned off by a Way that brought them into their direct Road Home ; by which Means it's evident they

they escaped him. For *Affabella*, as desired, wrote to *Amicana*, and told her, she believed, that *Volanto* did not hear of their going 'till Noon; when he suddenly went away, and took the Road to *Gradon*; which being a very large populous Town, he could not quickly know whether *Amicana*, &c. were there, or not. But after three or four Days he came back to *Santon*, and *Affabella* not being gone away, he saw her at the Wells, and complained of his own and *Amicana's* hard Fate, caused by her unwilling Confinement, and of an Interception of Letters; and this gave *Affabella* an Opportunity to undeceive him, and to shew him, how much he imposed upon himself; for *Amicana* had told *Affabella* at parting, that she was Married: And *Affabella*, with some warmth, told *Volanto*, that *Amicana* abhorred him, and all such base Offers, in her Soul: Which he now took in good earnest, and thus late wholly desisted from his vain Enterprize.

A M I C A N A having done with her Story, told them, that these were not the only Attempts that had been made upon her Virtue, and which made a young Wife's Unhappiness, with an old Husband, much the greater. But all those other Attempts, were such as she would quash at their first Appearance, and had nothing to say of them worth their Hearing.

THEY thank'd her for entertaining 'em so agreeably with the Story of *Volanto*; and told her, they heard it with less Pain, and more Diversion, than that of *Audatio*, because she was in less Danger, and not so long, nor under such Fears, as in *Falacia's* wicked Hands.

LUCINDA said she was surprized, and provok'd at the Thoughts of Man's making any Proposals of Marriage to a Married Woman, even if they had in reality, no other criminal Design. *Amicana* said, if any such unwarrantable Offer was made by any Man, knowing a Woman to be Married, it was, indeed, an insufferable Thing, and to which a Woman ought to shew the greatest Abhorance. But if a Gentleman of known Probity and Virtue, should, by Mistake, make Addresses of Love to a Lady privately Married, or not knowing her to be a Wife, but having some shew of Reason to believe the contrary; and if his Manner of Address shew'd that he meant honourable Love, and nothing else; and when he knows the Lady is already Married, if he then desists from all farther Application, or makes no dishonourable Overtures, and by that Means shews that he abhors any Thing that's Criminal: And if afterwards he continues to show her a friendly Respect, always guarded by strict Virtue, she may, and ought to make him

a just Return of Virtuous Respect, for his true Esteem for her.

THIS did not reflect upon *Amicorus*, who knew not of *Amicana's* Marriage, when he first discover'd his Passion for her, nor in reality upon herself; for what she wrote in Answer to his first Letter, when he knew she was Married (in a Case so extraordinary) might be well excused; she having in that Answer expressed a strict Regard to Virtue, Justice and Duty, and in nothing contrary to her present Assertion. And there was nothing in his first Letter, that could in the least accuse him of any Thing that was contrary to the strict Rules of Virtue and Equity. *Amicorus* said, he believ'd *Lucinda* would agree to *Amicana's* Sentiments; and the readier, because there was no general Rule without some Exception. And to take off all Ground of Prejudice, he would divert them with a true Story of what *Amicana* had hinted at, and with some such Overtures of Marriage, as *Lucinda* had in her first Thoughts condemned and exploded.

AND first, in Merriment, he told them, it was a common Thing amongst People of the middle Rank, for Neighbours and Friends, to call each others Wives and Husbands, Seconds; and that second Marriages sometimes succeeded upon it. And that he asking his Taylor, who, he had

been told, had Married a Widow, whom, in his former Wife's Time, he call'd Second, whether he had call'd her so in Jest, or Earnest, he said between both; for his first Wife being unhealthy, and more like to Die than Live, and the Widow being a good Woman, and Rich, he thought it his Interest to bespeak her, lest she shou'd bestow herself upon another; and which he said, she had certainly done, if he had not induced her to set her Mind upon him: And he aver'd, that she own'd, after her Marriage, that she refused several good Offers on his Account, being resolv'd, seeing his Wife was not like to recover, to stay for him.

He next told them of a Lady, whom they both knew, named *Clarena*, who being privately Married, and, on account of a Law Suit, for Part of her Fortune, which was then depending on the Laws Decision, was forc'd to conceal her Marriage for above half a Year: And that *Philanter*, a Gentleman, whose Person, Character and Estate, were unexceptionable, not knowing she was Married, made a most assiduous Court to her, and would take no Denial. It was *Generosal's*, her Husband's Opinion, that he being a Gentleman of Worth, and one for whom he should always have a just Defence, ought not to be affronted: But she found

found a great deal of Difficulty to avoid affronting him, without discovering her Marriage: For she could not find any Reason to allege for her not complying, that he would take as a sufficient Reason. She could not say she had any Dislike to him, or his Proposals; but she said, she hop'd she should never Marry whilst she liv'd; not out of a Dislike to a Marriage State, or to him, but for a Reason which must, at present, be a Secret, which Time would discover. But this Answer did not take off his Hopes of succeeding in his Wishes. She then told him, if he had a real Value for her, he would not take her Denial ill, so long as she did not Marry any other Person, but kept herself in the same State of Life in which she now was. He said, he had too great an Esteem for her to take any Thing ill from her; but that he thought he ought never to cease trying, by all possible Means, to alter her Resolution. So that she was forc'd, at last, to tell him, she might reasonably hope, from the great Esteem which he profess'd to have for her, that she might depend upon his sincere Friendship; and that she expected; if she discovered a Secret to him, which she would not tell to any other Person living, that he should faithfully keep it. Which he having promis'd to do, she told him she had been Married some Time before he had

discovered his Esteem for her, and mentioned the Reason for concealing it. He thank'd her for the Trust she had reposed in him, and assur'd her he would not abuse it. And *Generofal*, her Spouse, being a Gentleman for whom he had a real Respect, they always lived in Friendship together.

THIS Story, says *Amicorus*, you'll say, is not to the Purpose; and so you'll say of another which I shall tell you by Way of Diversion, but they are uncommon Amusements, especially this, which I have been credibly informed is true.

A young Gentleman, and a young Gentlewoman being equally in Love, her Father obliged her to Marry a Gentleman of a much greater Estate than her Lover's: But who was of a rustick Temper, and was a very unkind Husband, which almost broke her Heart. She had not been long Married, 'ere she was suddenly taken Ill, and, to all Appearance, dy'd with Grief; and was buried: She being buried in the Chancel, late at Night, the Sexton did not fill up her Grave, but only covered it with Boards 'till Morning. Her Lover knowing this, went to the Sexton to speak with him privately, and told him how great his Love for the deceased Gentlewoman was, and offer'd him a good Gratuity if he would go with him to her Grave, and open the Coffin

Coffin Cover that he might have a Kiss, as his last Farewel. The Sexton consented, and the Grave being in Rocky Ground, could not well be dug deeper than just to admit of a Stone Cover, so that the Lover lying on his Breast could kiss her Lips with ease, as she lay in her Grave. He kiss'd and wept so long, that the Sexton said he would stay no longer; he then told him, he would have but one Kiss more, which taking very earnestly, he found her Lips move, and told the Sexton she was come to Life again; and the Lover's House being near the Church, he bid the Sexton call his Servant to help to carry her to his House; which for another Fee to the Sexton, was done, and she kept there with the greatest Secrecy, and very tenderly taken care of. When she had recovered her Sences, she was surpriz'd to find herself in her Lover's Bed; and not knowing that she had been Buried, she thought she had been only a Sleep, and imagin'd herself still in a Dream, or Trance, but was glad to find herself in so good Hands. When she had recovered her Health and Strength, and had been told all that had past, her Lover ask'd her if she were now at her free Choice, would she be Married to him, or to her Husband? She readily own'd she wou'd choose him: He then told her, he had consulted a Lawyer, who was of Opinion, that her Burial

Burial had cancel'd the Marriage Contract in Law ; and that she was dead in Law to him. But he could shew no Precedent for such Opinion. But, however, a Divine being told the Lawyers Opinion, said, that considering her forced Marriage against her Inclination, and her ill Usage by her Husband, which brought her to her Grave ; and as she ow'd her Life to her Lover, and, without whose Kindness, she must have dy'd in her Grave, he did not think her Husband could in Conscience challenge any Right to her : And that she ought not to go to make her Life miserable with such a Brute, or to break her Heart quite by his Barbarity ; and that he would venture to Marry her to her Lover, if she consented to it. She readily agreed to his Opinion, and to his Office, and he Married them : But whether with, or without a Licence, I know not. And as to the Point of Law, her former Husband either could not, or did not dispute it. For she continued with her Lover , and very happily they long liv'd together : And as no Complaint was made, the Parson was not censured.

AND now, says *Amicorus*, to come to the Point in dispute. I knew a young handsome Clergyman, and a Gentleman born of a good Family, who had a fair Prospect of being advanced in the Church, who used to be frequently in Company with

with a young Gentlewoman, who was Married to a Gentleman in Years, and of a broken Constitution. And he would very of't in a very Debonair and publick Manner, call her his *Futura*, and tell her, she must call him her Second ; which, in a jocose Manner, she would frequently do, and he sometimes whisper'd his Mind to her in a more direct and particular Manner, which she did not in the least seem displeas'd with, which he thought Encouragement enough. He imagin'd, as others did, that her Husband would not live long ; and she was Handsome, and like to be left very Rich. And he being to go to reside at a considerable Distance from her, and a-cross the Country, he engag'd a Friend of his, in their Neighbourhood, to send him Word, by a special Messenger, the Moment that the Gentleman, her Husband should die. Which he did ; and *Clericus* immediately took Horse and came In-cognito to his Friend, to enquire, as soon as the Will was open'd, how Matters stood : And finding Things would answer his Expectation, he went to make the Widow a Visit, about three Days after her Husband's Funeral. He first told her it was a Visit of Condolence ; but finding her not in a very mournful Temper, he began to be Jocose, and told her, that her Beauties shone so bright, that she must needs have a great many

many Admirers ; and therefore he thought he ought not to delay to put in his Claim. She, with a serious Look, ask'd him what he meant ; which he was willing to take in such a Sence as he lik'd best, and freely explain'd his Meaning. At which she shewed her Anger in good Earnest, and ask'd him how he cou'd for shame, in such an unseasonable Time and Manner, mention any such Thing. He very submissively made his Excuse, by saying it was the Violence of his Passion, and the Danger he apprehended of being too late ; and the Distiance which he was oblig'd to be at, had extorted from him what Love would not suffer him to conceal. And he told her, she could not but perceive, that he had long been in Love with her ; and he was in hopes she had no Aversion for him. She answer'd, that she did not hate him ; but told him, if ever he offer'd to say a Word more upon that Subject, he should never after see her Face more. He durst not venture to say any more at that Time, but beg'd her Pardon for having offended her, and took his Leave, and went to his Cure. But he had first desir'd his Friend to send him some Account of what should happen, and in a Months Time he wrote to him, that he saw no Appearance of Danger.

THIS good News put him upon writing to the Widow, in the strain of a passionate Lover,

Lover, and having no Answer, he wrote again, to tell her, that he had conceiv'd such Hopes from the Pleasure which she had sometime seem'd to take in his Company, that he could not but be surpriz'd to find such a Change ; and beg'd of her to let him know if any Body had accus'd him of any Thing that she dislik'd, that he might do himself Justice. But before he could well expect an Answer to his last Letter, his Friend wrote him word, that the Widow was privately Married to one whom they never suspected, and one, whom 'twas believ'd would soon ruin her ; for he was worth nothing, and was very Expensive, and a Gamster. But it seems, that he had not only bespoke her in her Husband's Time, but made her sure. For, however Secret it had been kept, it was now whisper'd by a disgusted Servant, that he used to be her Husband's Coajutor, tho' unknown to him. And she was a Wife too good natur'd to him, or her self, to let her Husband want an Assistant. So that you see bespeaking alone is not always sufficient ; but yet if this Gallant had not interfer'd in it, *Clericus* had not been disappointed of what he had call'd his Claim.

It is reported, that a Widow cry'd only at the Death of her Third, or Fourth Husband, because she was only then unprovided of another ; but this Widow was doubly

doubly provided: And tho' she chose the worst; in some Respects, yet she took the Man, who she had made Trial of, in the most sensible Manner; and she was as willing to be ruin'd, as he was to ruin her. For she lik'd Play, and all Manner of Extravagance, and hated to think farther than the present Enjoyment, which always is succeeded by unavoidable Ruin: But her first Husband doted on her, and could see no Fault in her, and so left her a handsome Estate at her Disposal. Indeed she had not in his Time given so great a Loose to her luxurious Appetites, nor could she do it: But now she had a Man who lik'd Banqueting, and Rambling, and Play, as well as she did; and which they both practis'd till they had squander'd away her Estate, which was not long about, and then they wanted Power to serve their Will.

THIS, says *Amicorus*, is a late Story, and a short Scene, being begun and ended in a few Years. But now it is Time, says he to *Amicana*, and *Lucinda*, to beg your Pardon for mentioning a Character which I know you both dislike and abhor, and is so contrary to your own, but it proves my Assertion: And, says he to *Lucinda*, pray what would you have thought of *Amicana* in her extraordinary Case, and small Hopes of being left Rich, but rather, in all probability very Poor, if some Gentleman, to whom

whom no Objection cou'd be made, had fallen in Love with her at the Wells ; and not knowing she was Married, had made his Addresses to her. (She has told us that she thinks a Wife ought not to suffer any such Proposal from one that knew she was Married ; tho' it were in the most virtuous Sence, such a Case could admit ; that is, only to desire to have her in Reversion, and when she became Sole.) (But I would put the Case) that she was for some Reason, or other, as unwilling to own her Marriage, as the Lady, who I first mention'd, was, on Account of her Law Suit. She could not, without affronting him, avoid hearing him repeat his Declaration of Love, nor would refuse it, except she had any Aversion for him ; and this would give him a sort of Encouragement : And this she must do, or immediately tell him she was Married ; which might be very improper to do : And if, after that, he knowing all the Circumstances of her Marriage, should, without offering any unchaste Incitement, tell her he would wait 'till she was at Liberty to dispose of her self, and never have any other Thought, nor think of any other Person, if she would give him Hopes of making him Happy, when in her Power. And with this Protestation should offer her greater Advantages than ever she could expect in such a Case ; if she could like his Person,

son, and did like his Character, Estate and Terms; and had Reason to believe him Just and Virtuous; if she would not hear his Offers, he might find some fit Person to persuade her to read them: And her Interest must needs incline her to shew some sort of Compliance in the Way of Honour and Virtue; and allowing her to keep her Marriage Contract in reality inviolable, by obliging him to live distant from her, and to cease all mention of Love, in what had she been to blame, if on these Terms she had preserved so virtuous and generous a Lover?

LUCINDA, after a Moments Pause, said, this was, indeed, a particular Exception to the general Rule; and that she thought that acting so in such an axtrodinary Case, was such an Exception, as was not in the least Criminal. And that were the Case her own, she believ'd she should make a Virtue of Necessity, and not put such an Offer quite out of her Power.

I am glad, says *Amicorus*, you are of that Opinion; but I assure you, I am as far as either of you can be, from allowing, or approving of any such Proceedings, in any Case that does not make it absolutely necessary. Nor would I have it in Cases less extraordinary ever allow'd of, much less brought into Practice. And although the Custom of calling Seconds may have been oft'

oft' innocent, yet People suspect that such Liberties have oft' made some of those Neighbours, which I before mention'd, a little too free with one another's Husbands and Wives before hand, on both Sides ; and therefore it is not a good Custom.

AMICANA said, it was possible there might be some Thing more in the Case, which *Amicorus* had put, than he had mention'd, and ask'd *Lucinda* if Love were added to a Woman's interested Inducements, would she believe it could continue Virtuous, if tempted to be otherwise. Says *Lucinda*, Virtuous Love will ever be unalterably the same, however tempted, or try'd. But I don't suppose the Widow's Love (mention'd by *Amicorus*) ever had one Grain of Virtue in it. Alas ! a violent sensual Passion is too oft' mistaken for Love ; but Time, Occasion, and Observation, will soon discover its Kind.

YOUR Virtue, my dear *Amicana*, says she, has been throughly try'd, as with an ordeal Trial ; for you have been provok'd by unjust Censure, and Severity ; tempted by specious Alurements, and almost forc'd, by Necessity, to betray and give up your self, and yet have remain'd unconquerable. And, I hope, says she, your unspotted and unparallel'd Virtue will still have its just Reward ; and methinks, says she, I begin to see it appear.

THIS she said in allusion to a very advantageous Offer of Marriage, which was just then made her by *Bonerman*, and which *Amicorus* would not but recommend to her. And, indeed, as her Beauty was not in the least impair'd, but her Mind, &c its excellent Qualities daily improving, she had several good Offers made to her, and this of *Bonerman's* was an extraordinary one, with Respect both to his Qualities and Estate, which yet she would not consent to, tho' she could make no manner of Objection to it. But she told them, she thought Marrying was a great Hazard, except with one of a thorough Acquaintance ; or that some extraordinary Occurrences happen'd to discover a Man's true Character, and set him in such a true Light, as that one might clearly discern his very Soul : And without such a Foundation, for a just Estimate of Things, Happiness was very uncertain. She said, there was no Body's Opinion in the World she wou'd take so soon as theirs : But she beg'd their Pardon, for saying she did not think they had such a through Acquaintance with *Bonerman*, as that, upon mature Deliberation, they would persuade her to depend upon. But this was a needless Scruple, and she would not have made that Objection, if she had not resolv'd not to Marry ; as believing *Amicorus* had no Equal ; and

and that she could not think herself Happy with any other Person.

SHE said she was perfectly Happy in their good Company, and far happier than ever she could be in any other ; nor could she desire a greater Felicity upon Earth, than what she now enjoy'd ; and for which she wou'd endeavour to be grateful : And that it wou'd be her greatest Pleasure to shew it in whatever she possibly cou'd do. And as they were pleas'd to entertain her in so kind a Manner, she found but little Occasion for the Use of any of her small Income ; and that, in Time, what she sav'd, wou'd amount to something ; and that she wou'd adopt their Children for her own, and make them Heirs to whatever she should be able to leave in the World. And she assur'd them, she thought of that, with far more Pleasure, than any Prospect of Marriage cou'd give her.

THEY thank'd her for those endearing Thoughts, and assur'd her, that they should think it their greatest Misfortune to be depriv'd of her Company : But yet they cou'd not but think it more for her Interest and Happiness to Marry ; and that they were oblig'd in Gratitude for their own Happiness in a Marriage, kindly propos'd, and earnestly press'd, and promoted by her, to endeavour to make a just Return for her good Will, by endeavouring to promote her Inter-

terest in Marriage ; and cou'd not, for her own sake, but wish her happily Married.

SHE repeated her Thanks , but remain'd fix'd in her Resolution not to Marry.

LUCINDA had brought *Amicorus* a Son, and a Daughter, of both which *Amicana* was as fond and tender, as if they had been her own, and as much delighted with them. Which made *Lucinda* tell her, that she made her sometimes suspect, whether she herself lov'd them so well.

BUT, said she, I comfort my self with believing it is impossible that you can love them better ; and if you do love them as well as I do, I will not envy you.

BUT *Lucinda* wou'd not pretend to love them better than their Father did. And thus these Three liv'd together in the most loving and happy Manner that can be express'd, or imagin'd, 'till the Daughter was about a Year Old, when (to the inexpressible Grief of both *Amicorus* and *Amicana*) *Lucinda* dy'd.

IN her Illness she was apprehensive of Dying, before any Body else thought so ; and she said, she perceiv'd her Life was to be but short : But it had been (excepting Sorrow for the Death of Friends) a happy Life, and most happy of all in her Marriage State, by having the most Virtuous, Tender, loving Husband ; who , she believ'd had no Equal ; which made her Happiness,

pines she thought superior to any of her Sex : And she said, that tho' her Happiness had been too great, and *Amicorus's* justly too dear to her, not to wish to live longer, yet she was not afraid, nor altogether unwilling to Die ; because she firmly believ'd a future State, infinitely Happier than this Life. And that her Idea of Time and Eternity, differ'd so much from Time in this World, that however long *Amicorus* liv'd (which she wish'd might be very long) she believ'd she should think their Separation but as one Day, or Hour.

AMICORUS told her, he hop'd there was no Danger of her Death, and beg'd of her not to be so needlessly apprehensive of it, because that was the Way to sink her Spirits, and to deprive her of Life : And *Amicana* made the same Request to her.

To which she answer'd, she desir'd they wou'd not flatter themselves with vain Hopes of her Life, and assur'd them, she had no Manner of Fear upon her, having, she hop'd, always liv'd so, as to die Daily, and Daily to expect Death without Fear. And that she would now continue, whilst her Distemper would permit it, to make a due Preparation for her Death, and for eternal Life in Heaven, which she hop'd for, through the alone Merits of our Blessed Saviour.

SHE desir'd to be alone with *Amicorus*, and then told him, she could not wish he shou'd live in an uncomfortable Widow-hood, and desir'd she might recommend *Amicana* to him for a Wife, who she was sure, wou'd fully make up his Loss of a Wife, and her dear Childrens Loss of a Mother. She told him, tho' she was not a Fortune, her prudent Conduct might be of greater Advantage to him ; and that he saw but too many Wives who were not satisfy'd without spending much more than their Fortunes ; and that she believ'd he could not find a Woman upon Earth, that would make him so happy as she would do.

SHE said his Circumstances were now easy ; and, by his Conduct, his Estate improving, and hop'd he wou'd make no Objection to her Request : And believ'd, notwithstanding *Amicana's* little Inclination to Marry; she wou'd not refuse him.

HE endeavour'd to hide his Grief, for fear it should effect her, but told her he was very sorry to hear her talk so much of Dying, when no Body else could perceive that she was in danger, and hop'd she would live long to make him Happy.

SHE told him, he wou'd soon find his Mistake, and in the most pathetick Manner said, My Dearest *Amicorus*, if you'll but promise what I desire, I shall Die with the greatest

greatest Satisfaction ; and she press'd him so earnestly to it, that at last he told her, he was of her Opinion as to *Amicana*, and believ'd he cou'd not any where find so good a Wife, or kind a Mother-in-Law, as she wou'd be : And that if it pleas'd God she did Die, her dying Request wou'd determine him to marry *Amicana* ; and he promis'd her that it shou'd not be his Fault, if he did not.

SHE express'd abundance of Joy and Satisfaction to hear him say so, and thank'd him very heartily for granting her Request.

SHE then desir'd he wou'd leave her to take a little Rest ; but that she found impossible to do, 'till she had spoke with *Amicana* alone. And she being come to her, at her Request, by her Nurse, she strangely surpriz'd her, with what she said to her, as not imagining, or expecting any such Thing.

MY dearest Friend, said she to *Amicana*, it will be in vain for you to flatter your self with Hopes of my Recovery : I can't but wish to live longer with my dearest *Amicorus*, and with you ; but as that is not to be expected, I shall die with entire Satisfaction, if you'll grant my dying Request, and promise me to be a Mother to my dear little Children, to supply their Loss of me.

AMICANA, who sincerely lov'd her infinitely more than any Person living, (*Amicorus* excepted) could not conceal her shocking Grief, but with a Flood of Tears, said, ‘ Why, my dearest *Lucinda*, will you afflict your self and me with needless Thoughts of Dying, which may bring you into real Danger, whilst every Body has great Hopes of your Life.

LUCINDA, without any shew of Concern, but for *Amicana*'s Tears, very sedately told her, She was free from any such Concern, or Fear, as could hasten her Death. But whatever Hopes there might be of her Life, to make her easy in what she desir'd, wou'd, if any Thing cou'd do it, very much contribute to her Recovery.

WELL then, said *Amicana*, I must tell you, that you ask what you need not doubt of; for you know that I have already adapted your Children for my own; and were they really mine, I think I could not love them better than I do, or be more tender of them than I am.

LUCINDA thank'd her, and said, she knew that she need not have desired her to love them as her own, for she was satisfy'd she did, and believ'd she ever wou'd do so. But, says she, I mean something more, and that is, that you will become their Mother in such a Sence as will make up my dear *Amicorus*'s Loss of a Wife.

AMICANA said, she lov'd them both too well, to wish they should ever Part, and to loose either of them, wou'd be to loose one Half of her Happiness.

WELL, said *Lucinda*, I am glad to hear you say you love *Amicorus*; tho' I know you do as a Friend, but if I die, I must desire you'll love him as your Husband: You are a Witness of his tender, constant, faithful Love of me; and as your Merit justly claims it, you can't doubt but he will as entirely love you, and make you as Happy as I have been.

BUT why, says *Amicana*, wou'd you expect he shou'd so far decline his real Interest as to Marry me, when he might reasonably expect a very considerable Fortune with a Wife?

MY dear *Amicana*, said she, you need not trouble your self about that; I am sure he thinks you the greatest Fortune he can have, and has, at my Request, promis'd, if I Die, it shall not be his Fault, if he does not Marry you: And I hope you have now no Objection to make to my Request to you, to be his Wife. And you will do me the greatest Pleasure in the World, to promise me you will be his. Dear *Amicana*, says she, keep me no longer in suspence, but resolve me quickly.

WELL

W E L L then, said *Amicana*, since you will have it so, I freely own, I can have no Objection to *Amicorus*, and that if he should have the Misfortune to loose you, it wou'd be my greatest Interest to be so happily Married.

S A Y S *Lucinda*, you have now given me entire Satisfaction, and I am perfectly easy, having nothing more to do in this World, with relation to its Affairs. But now, says she, whilst my Spirits are brisk, let us all Three, once more, enjoy a happy Hour together.

I wish, said *Amicana*, that we may enjoy many happy Years together : But I am afraid you have already tir'd your self, and will want to refresh your Spirits by Sleep.

I thank you for your kind Care of me, says *Lucinda*, but I can't Sleep, 'till the happy Hour I desire is over : And pray let *Amicorus* be desir'd to come to us ; which was done by Nurse, who waited without. And after *Lucinda* had refresh'd herself with such Things as her Physician prescrib'd, and Nurse sent out, she then told *Amicorus*, that *Amicana* had given her entire Satisfaction, in what she had desir'd of her, which had made her perfectly easy, and for which she thought herself extreamly oblig'd to her ; and that her Care being over, she fancy'd herself much better ; and did

did not know but that the Tranquility of Mind which she now enjoyed, might contribute to her Recovery. And she desir'd that they three Lovers might pass a little Time chearfully together.

THEY both told her, they rejoyc'd to find she thought herself better, and hop'd she would continue to grow better every Minute. But they beg'd she wou'd not tire herself, but try to get some Sleep.

SHE thank'd them, and told them she wou'd not keep them long, 'ere she wou'd take their Advice. But first give me leave, say'd she, to tell you, I know not how to express my Obligations to you both. I am not very fit to Kiss, but my dearest *Amicorus*, says she, pray give my dear *Amicana* a loving grateful Kiss from me, and for me.

UPON which he look'd very seriously at her: Which she taking notice of, said, My Dear, you may, perhaps, think me Delirious, but I don't think I am so; or, if I am, you can do no less than humour me a little in it: And I beg you'll do what I have desir'd.

My dearest *Lucinda*, says *Amicorus*, it has always been my Delight to do what you at any Time desir'd, or, whatever I could imagine would please you : And I think it no hard Task to oblige you now in what you desire. But I could not help looking seriously upon you ; because it is no unusual Thing for Fevers to make People Delirious. But whether you are so, or not, I will readily obey your Commands. Which having done, she thank'd him ; and they both thank'd her for being so obliging ; and both would not be refused a Kiss of *Lucinda*, tho' she fear'd it should offend them. Whether she was Delirious, or not, she said she loved *Amicana* so well, that if she recover'd, would the Law allow it, she should wish they both might be his Wives. And if she dy'd, she heartily wished, they might very long live as happy together, as he and she had done. But, says She, I have thought it a Happiness too great for this World, and therefore not long to be enjoy'd by me. But if I must leave it, it is not without the greatest Hopes of a more exalted Bliss in Heaven ; where, I hope, we Three shall at last be eternally Happy together.

Her Distemper might, indeed, raise her Spirits too high. But yet such endearing Expressions, were very agreeable to her loving Nature, especially to those whom she so dearly lov'd, and her Talk did not seem to hurt her ; and considering that she continu'd, in all Appearance, better all that Night, and rested moderately well, and continu'd easy all the next Day, what she had said in relation to *Amicorus* and *Amicana*, might rather be thought to be the Effects of her affectionate Desires, and entire Satisfaction, than of any feverish Delirium.

THE Night following she began to be very uneasy again, and hourly grew worse, and complain'd of the return of a Pain, which she had before felt at her Heart ; and which at first made her apprehensive of Dying. And now she was, for some Time, incapable of conversing with them ; but having a little Respit before her last Breath, she did , in the hearing of the Minister (who had oft' attended her in her Illness) and Nurse, and others being present, pray very earnestly, that God would bless her dear *Amicorus* and *Amicana*, and her dear Children, and make them happy together. And committing herself to God, and beg-

ing her dear Saviour to receive her Soul, she at once expir'd. And thus the dear Lov'd, and dearly Loving *Lucinda* left the World, very sincerely and greatly lamented by both *Amicorus* and *Amicana*, who said, she could freely have dy'd to save her Life.

APTER her Funeral had been perform'd in the Manner she had desir'd, *Amicana* told *Amicorus* it would not be proper for her to continue in his House, and therefore she must think of finding a convenient Lodging elsewhere.

AMICORUS, with much Concern, said, will you then rob me of all the Comfort I have left in the World? And can you so soon forget your Promises to my dear *Lucinda*, to be a Mother to her Children?

SHE told him, she could neither forget her Promise, nor her Obligation to her dearest *Lucinda*; but (as they were then at *Carentam*) she said she might have a Lodging near enough, for the faithful and due Discharge of that Trust; and, said she, I see *Amicorus*, your Soul, is in the greatest Anguish; and therefore I forgive you a Censure, which, I believe, you would not otherwise

otherwise have been guilt of. He reply'd, it was very true, that his Soul was extreamly oppress'd with Pangs of Grief: But yet assur'd her, that what he had said, was not out of any Doubt he had of her Goodness, or Justice, or by Way of Complaint, or Reproach; but that he rather us'd that Expression as an Inducement to her, not to leave him in his disconsolate Condition; and he beg'd her Pardon for having displeas'd her.

SHE said, she did not believe he wou'd willingly disoblige her in any Thing, and so she needed not to say, that she forgave him; but she said, she did not think Prudence could allow her (especially who had been, tho' unjustly censur'd) to be in the House with him; and she desir'd he would seriously consider, whether he would not be as unwilling as she, to do any Thing that might occasion Reproach. And she desir'd she might, if possible, avoid Defamation, since however causeless it was, Calumny would gain some Credit. He told her he was entirely of her Opinion; but hop'd her continuing in his House, would give no occasion for Scandal. This not prevailing with *Amicana* to stay in his House, he desir'd some Friends (for whom she had a great Respect) to try to persuade

her to stay with him ; and when she found they were of Opinion that she shou'd stay with *Amicorus* : She told him, She believ'd he thought it Time for his Sisters to leave the Boarding-School ; and, if he wou'd bring them to his House, to be Company for her, and Witnesses of their Innocence, she wou'd be content to continue with him. This being readily agreed to, she did not leave his House, but there she very tenderly and agreeably acted the Part of a Mother, and Friend, or Sister ; but not of a Wife, 'till a full Year's Mourning for *Lucinda* was expir'd ; for they both willingly agreed (when due Time admitted them to discourse upon that Subject) not to Marry sooner.

WHEN they had thus friendly liv'd together about Eight Months, *Amicana* had a Letter from her Uncle *Parsimont*, to tell her, that his Son and Daughter were both Dead ; and as they had no Children living, she was now right Heir to his Estate ; and, by some Expressions, he seem'd to look upon their Death, as being both at a Time ; and their having first buried their Children, to be a Judgment upon him. He freely confess'd, with Sorrow, his having been the Cause of her Unhappiness, and told her, he would endeavour to make her some voluntary

luntary Amends ; and said, his Affliction fate so heavy upon him, that he believ'd he should not live long, and desir'd she would make what haste she could to come to see him, assuring her of a kind Reception.

SHE consulted with *Amicorus* what to do. She was unwilling to leave the poor Children and him too ; and he was very unwilling to part from her, but both thought it necessary that she should go ; and he would have gone with her, had not the Children made his staying at Home necessary. However, he offer'd his Service to attend her, which She, in a kind Manner, refus'd, on the Childrens Account : And she would allow him to go but one Day's Journey, and was attended the rest of the Way by *Confido*, who had before waited on her from *Uphorum* to *Boniter*, *Amicorus*'s Country Seat.

AMICORUS offered her his Coach, but She told him it was needless, seeing her Uncle had promised to send his Coach for her, to the Place where the Stage-Coach must leave her ; and so at the Place where *Lucinda* and he had receiv'd her, on her Journey to them, they kindly, but unwillingly, parted, with mutual Assurances of Love, and Promises to write oft' to each other ; which they did in the most Affectionate

fectionate Manner, almost every Post; but their Letters were too many, and too long to be inserted here: But were as Kind and Endearing as you can imagine, and never without *Amicana's* tender Concern for her dear adapted Children, and his writing some pleasant Stories of their pretty Actions, and not without some tender Thoughts and Remembrance of their dear *Lucinda*; who was, indeed, so intirely dear to both them, that whilst they lived, they frequently lamented her early Death, and their Loss of her. A Loss so great to *Amicana*, that after her Marriage to *Amicorus*, she oft' said, that She was of *Lucinda's* Opinion, and should have thought her Happiness greater, if *Lucinda* had lived, and both of them together, were it allowable, might have been his Wives. For, said She, *Amicorus's* Love to both of us, has been so true and inviolable, that we should always have loved as Sisters; and in a tripple Bond of Love, have liv'd altogether in the most perfect Harmony. And she said, altho' she lov'd *Amicorus* in the highest Degree, yet she did not think there was more than one Degree difference between her Love of them.

AND She believed the same of *Lucinda's* Love to her.—*Lucinda* and she had loved each other from their Infancy, and both of them loved *Amicorus* at first Sight. *Lucinda* with

with less Violence at first, but not with less Affection afterwards. And tho' *Amicana's* Passion was at first more piercing, she had Fortitude enough to calm it into Friendship; and when her virtuous Love re-kindled, it ever burnt with a pure and lambent Flame.

Her Uncle *Parsimont* receiv'd her with abundance of Affection and Joy, as having been very Penitent for his being the Author of her past Misery, and was now glad that he could make her some Recompence for it. And he rejoyc'd to know that she was to be Married to so worthy a Gentleman, as he said, he was well satisfy'd *Amicorus* was.

AND now he own'd to her, that all that *Senex* said of her was very true, of which he was now asham'd, and ask'd her Forgiveness, and said he would endeavour to deserve her Pardon, by leaving her the greatest Part of his Personal Estate; (and, indeed, he had no other very near Relation living, nor any others that he much car'd for) and he desir'd her to write to *Benemer*, and to *Amicorus*, to desire they would be Executors to his Will; which they readily consented to, and *Benemer* immediately went to make him a Visit upon it,

it, but chiefly to wait upon *Amicana*, and that he did out of Respect to her, as well as being desir'd the Favour by *Amicorus's* Letter) that he would see her, and invite her to his House, and assist her in whatever might be necessary.

P A R S I M O N T was very glad to see *Benemer* (tho' not much acquainted with him, as being of different Tempers, and their Manner of Living very different) and *Parsimont* had his Will made to *Benemer's* and *Amicana's* Satisfaction, leaving only a few Legacies, and some Charities, and the rest of his Estate wholly to her; and when she had been there about two Months, he dy'd. And then upon a Line from *Amicana* to *Benemer*, to desire his Advice and Assistance, and his Company at the Funeral, he went to make her his Compliments of Condolance, and congratulated her upon her Accession to so large an Estate. And the Funeral being over, and they having taken Measures for settling her Affairs, she left her Attendant *Confido* to take the necessary Care of all Things; and went with *Benemer*, at his Request, to his House, where she was very agreeably entertain'd by *Clarissa* his Lady.

BUT *Amicorus* cou'd not bear that she should be so long absent from him, nor was she willing to stay from him; tho' on all other Accounts, she found the greatest Inducements to stay at *Benemer's* for some Time.

IT was necessary to leave *Confido* at *Al-dinam*, as *Amicana's* Steward. And *Amicorus* had invited *Benemer* and his Lady to his House; and not without a Prospect of their doing him the Honour to be at his Wedding. *Benemer* kindly accepted his Invitation: And *Amicana's* Coach being to carry her; and as *Benemer* took his own Coach, she persuaded him to let his Son, and his two unmarried Daughters bear them Company. And *Amicorus* rode as far as his Aunt *Phelicia's* to meet them, where they had an inexpressible joyful Meeting, when a transient retrospect to *Amicana's* past Sufferings, caus'd Tears of Joy, to speak their well pleas'd Sentiments of her present Happiness, and of her approaching Nuptial Bliss. And that *Phelicia* might not have too small a Share in the joyous Festivity, they prevailed with her, and her Children to accompany them to *Boniter*, *Amicoru's* Country Seat. Where the Year of Mourning for *Lucinda* being expir'd; and the Anniversary of her Death observed, with a pious

pious and mournful Remembrance of her Virtue and Goodness. *Amicorus* and *Amicana* had their happy Marriage solemniz'd, and splendidly Celebrated with the most harmonious Joy.

ON the Wedding Day *Amicana* told the Company, that she was glad she was now, by her succeeding to her Uncle's Estate, not altogether unworthy of the Love of so deserving a Gentleman ; and that if he had not a Penny in the World, his excellent Qualities, and his tender Love and Fidelity to *Lucinda*, would incline her to make Choice of him before any other Person whatsoever ; and that it was her utmost Ambition to have him for her Husband ; and she said, she could not doubt of being most entirely Happy.

HER Noble Relations being now of mature Age, did her Honour to be present at her Wedding, and shew'd a sincere Joy, and entire Satisfaction, in all her good Fortune. And, indeed, they had Reason to think it their Interest, to keep an amicable Correspondence with *Amicana*, and her Spouse. They liv'd in all imaginable Tranquility and Happiness, to a good Age. And now she thought herself fully Rewarded for all her former Sufferings.

BUT

BUT whilst they liv'd, they kept the Aniversary of *Lucinda's* Death, as a Day of Mourning, and oft' thought and talk'd of her with a kind Condolance of her short Life, and concern for their Want of so dear a Friend. But *Amicana* seem'd most to regret the Want of her dear delightful Conversation, tho' so amply compensated in the Enjoyment of the best of Husbands.

IT will be needless and superfluous to give any Detail of their excellent Oconomy and Conduſt: Their generous and hospitable Manner of Living; and of their endearing Tenderness, and mutual Happiness. I shall only add, that she bore him two Sons, and three Daughters; which, with *Lucinda's* Children, were educated by them, in the most commendable Manner; both as to Religion, Morality, and all social Virtues.

AMICANA was a tender Step-Mother to *Lucinda's* Children, and more indulgent to them than to her own: And both *Amicorus* and she liv'd to see all of them happily Married: And their pretty Grand-Children, were the Delight of their later Years.

BUT they did not place all their Felicity in temporal Enjoyments, but so liv'd,

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as to have always a pleasing Hope, and in that Respect they anticipated the more solid and angelick Love, and uninterrupted Joys, which never end. And after a long and happy Life, they dy'd so near in Time, as to be buried together; greatly lamented by all that knew them. And, as *Amicana* had desir'd, they were inter'd so, as that *Lucinda* lay at his right Side, and She at his Left. And a noble Monument, with a suitable Inscription, was erected at the joint Cost of *Lucinda*'s Son, who enjoy'd *Amicorus*'s Estate; and *Amicana*'s eldest Son, who enjoy'd her Estate: With the grateful and dutiful Consent of all their Children: To all whom they left considerable Bequests.

AND thus two wealthy Families sprung from *Amicorus*, by his equally beloved, and loving Wives; whose happy Offspring continue to live in sincere Love, and entire Friendship. And I hope and wish that their Unity and Harmony may be inviolably preserv'd to all their succeeding Generations:

F I N I S.



